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Toronto board leaves Holodomor out of genocide focus points

By Marco Levytsky

The Toronto District School Board has left the Holodomor out of the three major focus points of its new "Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications" curriculum for Grade 11 students.

The course has been approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Toronto District School Board is in process of asking experts to write the curriculum. It is expected to be available by September 2008. The teachers are supportive and eager to implement it.

The course comprises of three case studies — the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and the Rwandan Genocide.

"I appreciate your concern about the perceived omission of the Holodomor," wrote Nadine Segal, System Superintendent of Special Programs for the Toronto District School Board in a Jan. 20 e-mail responding to an earlier e-mail from Ukrainian News.

"The new course states that it 'includes' the Armenian and Rwandan genocides and the Holocaust but these are not the only genocides that will be studied. The course objectives state that students will be expected to study other examples of genocide such as Cambodia, the Ukrainian Famine, Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, Bosnia, Sudan, Darfur and others. Students will be able to pursue areas of interest and/or personal history. Also of importance is the section of the course that addresses the role of civil society. Students will be encouraged to understand their responsibilities as global citizens to take action to protect human rights and to confront genocide," she added.

Asked to elaborate on what "expected" means in a Jan. 21 telephone interview, Segal said.

"That will be part of their course expectations through independent study work so the course focuses on, or references the three genocides of Armenia, the Holocaust and Rwanda, but it is not limited to those. So it would be dependent on the independent study component, students will be able to pursue other examples and probably with input from the teacher as well, based on the school and the community in which he or she is teaching."

When asked whether that means the Holodomor is an optional item, as opposed to a compulsory part of the program, Segal stated:

"I'm not too sure that I'd say compulsory and optional. There will be many examples of genocide that are part of the course. There will be the three, the three that we have referenced will definitely be in there as part of the course, but it's not the other ones are optional, but they will be (there). There are 14 key genocides that will be referenced as well in the course."

Asked what term she would use instead of "optional", Segal replied the Holodomor "may not be a focus, but would be included."

However, Orest Steciw, Coordinator of Holodomor Projects for the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, says "independent study" implies "optional", and "optional" means the Holodomor won't be studied by students unless the teacher insists on it.

"How many teachers will insist? Very few, if any," he added noting that teachers have heavy workloads and are unlikely to teach a component unless the head of the department tells them to do so.

In addition, not many teachers are familiar with the Holodomor which makes it less likely that they will choose to teach about it, Steciw says.

Asked why the board picked those three genocides as focus points, Segal said:

"These were three that were ref

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Canada

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PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Edmonton's Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble lived up to its name as flames engulfed the roof of the Jasper Park Lodge during the group's Malanka there, Jan. 12.

Vohon razes the roof at Malanka

(UkrNews) — The Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble's 12th Annual Malanka, held at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge (JPL) Jan. 11-13, proved to be a truly fiery affair this year.

Approximately 400 guests and staff members were evacuated from the main lodge building to the golf clubhouse, during the dinner, Jan. 12, as 10-foot flames leapt from the roof.

The fire was caused when smouldering material was met with a draft of air after workers had tarred the roof using propane torches.

"When the alarm went off in the main dining hall, it was extremely loud and everybody was looking at each other in disbelief that it was a real alarm till a manager ran out of the kitchen and said 'This is serious. Everybody must leave — now!' said photographer Roman Petriw, one of the guests at the Malanka.

"And then many people thought it was a fire in the kitchen, but when I saw people working on the roof, two guys tarring the roof with a big propane torch, I guessed that it was probably on the roof and as soon as I walked out of the building I looked around and sure enough where they were working there were flames," he told Ukrainian News.

"And everyone was told to get away from the building because the boys told the fire fighters that there was a propane tank up there, so they had to clear the perimeter very wide. And everybody was ordered to go to the clubhouse and I kind of stayed behind, dodging between the officials and fire fighters and kept clicking away. And sure enough the boys went up on the roof and they extinguished the fire without having to blast the main water truck onto the roof, they used just hoses and fire hydrants that were nearby," he added.

Both the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department and the

Cont. on Page 9

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Water blessed by ice cross

Father Denis Pihach of the Russo-Greek Orthodox Church leads the water blessing ceremony by the ice cross at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village during the Feast of Jordan celebrations, Jan. 19. For more, see Page 8 of this issue.

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Кримінальні розслідування RCMP II Світової Війни починаються знову

Повідомляємо Вас, що RCMP дальше активно розлідує заяви стосовно кримінальних вчинків підчас другої світової війни. Службовець RCMP цього тижня зв'язався з членом українсько-канадської громади, пояснюючи що він розшукує людей по давньому, до тепер не розслідуваному списку людей, проти яких висунуте кримінальне звинувачення проти вчинків вдіяних підчас другої світової війни.

Просимо повідомити Ваших батьків і старших родичів про це і порадьте їм як що службовець RCMP, чи якийсь слідчий потелефонує, чи прийде до їхніх дверей, щоб вони повелися наступним чином, знаючи що це є їхнє конституційне право:

1) Зовсім нічого не казати службовцеві чи слідчому. Це стосується навіть простеньких балачок, затвердження особистості, дата чи місце народження, країна походження, громадянство і т.д.

2) Замість відповідати на питання, треба записати ім'я та номер телефону слідчого і сказати йому, що адвокат йому відзвонить. Тоді відразу повішати слухавку або закрити двері.

3) Попросіть щоб Ваш родич зв'язався з Вами щоб Ви помогли їм знайти відповідного адвоката.

До цього часу, в кожному випадку в якому справа дійшла до суду, звинувачена особа добровільно подавала інформації слідчому. Багато членів нашої громади не ознайомлені з їхніми юридичними правами і через страх або не правильно думаючи що вони мусять відповідати на питання, добровільно подають інформації які можуть обернутися проти них перед поліцією. Слідчі є досвідчені допитувачі і представляють себе лагідно і не погрозливо, щоб заохотити звинуваченого розмовляти з ними без присутності адвоката. Вони починають з простеньких, не загрозливих питань щоб заспокоїти звинуваченого щоб він чувся свобідно в розмові.

Слідчий не зобов'язаний попередити Вас, що ви маєте право мати присутнього адвоката при цій розмові. Такщо критично, щоб хто небудь з яким поліція зв'яжеться, щоб вони ні слова не говорили без присутності їхнього адвоката.

Дуже бажано мати присутнього адвоката, який ознайомлений з кримінальними справами.

В БЮТ обізвали російський МЗС дикунами

(Українська правда/УНІАН)—Керівник Комітету Верховної Ради у закордонних справах Олег Білорус вважає, що Міністерство закордонних справ має зробити заяву у відповідь щодо заяви МЗС Росії про ускладнення російсько-українських відносин у разі інтеграції України в НАТО.

Про це він заявив 22 січня в інтерв'ю журналістам.

Білорус зазначив, що подібна заява МЗС Росії "є дикістю". За його словами, Україна є суверенною державою, і тому за волею народу вона може вступати як до СОТ, так і до НАТО. При цьому, наголосив він, Росії не варто забувати, що санкції, якими вона погрожує, "є двосторонньою штукою".

Голова комітету зазначив, що заява МЗС Росії є безвідповідальною. "На такі речі потрібно реагувати також активно", - вважає Білорус.

Він не виключив, що відповідну заяву прийме Верховна Рада, проте в першу чергу на це має відреагувати МЗС України.

Як повідомлялося, МЗС Росії 22 січня заявило, що можлива інтеграція України до НАТО ускладнить російсько-українські відносини.

"Можлива інтеграція України до НАТО серйозно ускладнить багатопланові російсько-українські відносини. Ми будемо вимушені вжити адекватних заходів", - говориться в коментарі щодо листу українського керівництва про приєднання України до Плану дій щодо членства в НАТО.

У МЗС Росії відзначають, що складається враження, що нинішнє українське керівництво розглядає зближення з НАТО багато в чому як альтернативу добросусідським зв'язкам з Російською Федерацією.

Тимошенко просить Росію не скандалити

(Українська правда)—Прем'єр Юлія Тимошенко закликає політиків не зчиняти скандалів навколо намірів України співпрацювати з НАТО.

Так Тимошенко 21 січня прокоментувала відповідну заяву російського МЗС, озвучену 22 січня.

Вона нагадала, що "розгорнуту співпрацю з НАТО ведуть як Росія так і Україна".

"Я вважаю, що співпраця абсолютно не виключається, і вона дає можливість зміцнювати збройні сили", - зазначила Тимошенко.

Вона підкреслила, що продовжує дотримуватися думки, що для вступу України в НАТО необхідно провести всеукраїнський референдум з цього питання.

Коментуючи ситуацію, що склалася у Верховні Раді щодо "листа трьох", вона нагадала, що приєднання до ПДЧ є лише розширенням співпраці з НАТО, а не вступом до альянсу.

За її словами, думки "співпраця з НАТО – так, а вступ тільки за результатами референдуму" дотримується як нинішня більшість, так і меншість.

"Тому я попросила б політиків припинити створювати скандали там, де їх немає", - зауважила Тимошенко.

Ющенко вилаяв Януковича за НАТО

(Українська правда)—Президент Віктор Ющенко провів зустріч із головою фракції Партії регіонів Віктором Януковичем.

Про це 22 січня повідомляє прес-служба президента.

Під час зустрічі зокрема порушувалося питання щодо діяльності фракції Партії регіонів у Верховній Раді VI скликання.

Президент наголосив, що український парламент сьогодні повинен прийняти низку законів із ключових питань національного розвитку. А це вимагає стабільності у його роботі.

Він закликав фракцію Партії регіонів до конструктивної діяльності у Верховній Раді, підкресливши, що нині опозиція в українському парламенті має всі можливості для цивілізованої роботи.

"Я не раз наголошував: у парламенті немає ворогів, коли мова йде про національні інтереси", – сказав Ющенко.

Окремої уваги було надано темі бюджетного процесу.

Як відомо, минуле засідання парламенту не відбулося, оскільки Партія регіонів та Компартія блокували трибуну через лист керівництва країни щодо приєднання України до ПДЧ щодо членства в НАТО.

Янукович хоче убезпечитися від арешту

(Українська правда)—Народний депутат не може бути без згоди Верховної Ради затриманий чи заарештований до винесення обвинувального вироку судом.

Такі зміни до закону про статус народного депутата пропонують внести "регіонали" Віктор Янукович старший, Сергій Льовочкін та Олександр Лавринович.

"Народному депутату гарантується депутатська недоторканність на весь строк здійснення депутатських повноважень. Народний депутат не може бути без згоди Верховної Ради України затриманий чи заарештований до винесення обвинувального вироку судом", - йдеться в проекті змін до закону.

Законопроект розроблено з метою "вдосконалення правового регулювання статусу народних депутатів".

"Недоторканність передбачає особливий порядок притягнення до відповідальності – лише за згодою Верховної Ради України. Її мета – убезпечити посадових осіб від незаконного втручання в їх діяльність", - йдеться у пояснювальній записці.

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UCC meets with Yatseniuk

(UCC National)— Newly elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President, Paul Grod met with Arseniy Yatseniuk, Speaker of Ukraine's Parliament in the backdrop of Canada's Rocky Mountains in Banff, Jan. 5.

Yatseniuk took time out of his Canadian ski vacation to meet for several hours with Paul Grod and Zenon Potoczny, President of the Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce. The discussion was facilitated by Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada.

"During our highly engaging discussion we covered a wide variety of topics including the challenges facing the newly elected Speaker in leading Ukraine's new Parliament, concrete steps to developing closer relations between Canada and Ukraine, the recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people, and the internment of Ukrainians during Canada's first national internment operation," said Grod.

"Ukraine is beyond the phase in its development of seeking aid from Canada, rather we are looking to engage in a mutually beneficial and constructive bi-lateral and multi-lateral partnership with Canada," said Yatseniuk, "and we expect to underscore this intention with a visit to Canada by Ukraine's President Victor Yushchenko in the late spring of 2008."

The Speaker made a personal commitment to work with UCC in establishing a parliamentary internship program for Canadian students in Ukraine's Parliament. "This will form part of a larger youth initiative which will be launched early this year, whereby UCC will develop a variety of internship opportunities for Canadian youth in both Canada and Ukraine. This aspect of UCC's Youth Development Initiative will provide young Canadians with domestic and international experience in government and international affairs" stated Grod.

PHOTO — EMBASSY OF UKRAINE

Left to Right: Zenon Potoczny, Arseniy Yatseniuk, Paul Grod, Ihor Ostash.

Toronto board leaves Holodomor out of focus points

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erenced in a lot of materials that the steering committee had looked at. It had also come though a motion of the board (in July 2005) to examine the Holocaust in its contemporary implications, including Rwanda and there had been a previous board motion to look at the Armenian genocide. So because those are three areas that lend themselves to some comparative study because of the way the process is so carefully documented that became the core of the course."

Asked why the Holodomor included among those three, Segal said:

"Because the three were referenced through a board motion… the board of directors specifically mentioned those three and as we were looking at other resources those were the three that were referenced… so there are ways to compare those three and to be able to access information and to explore from there."

But Eugene Yakovitch, Head of the Holodomor Committee for the Toronto of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress says that with over one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent "we have made a significant contribution to the prosperity and fabric of Canada."

"Over one hundred years ago Ukrainians settled in the major cities of Canada and developed the lands of Western Canada. Omitting teaching about the Holodomor [famine/genocide] of 1932-33 leaves a significant gap in the education system," he added in a Jan. 23 interview with Ukrainian News.

"President Victor Yuschenko of Ukraine said: 'I address you on behalf of a nation that lost about ten million people as a result of the Holodomor-genocide. We insist that the world learn the truth about all crimes against humanity.'

"Only by learning about a Holodomor where ten million perished, can we prevent the reoccurrence of such an event," Yakovitch noted.

Since the TDSB announced its planned genocide curriculum, members of the Ukrainian community in Toronto have been sending letters to the board protesting the omission of the Holodomor from the compulsory component.

"We have received comments from the Ukrainian community… We've responded to those e-mails thanking people for their input and they've been very generous with their time and their support," Segal said.

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Happy New Year!

The GST is going down to 5%.

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En 2008, les Canadiens paieront moins de taxe.

Pour en savoir davantage sur la réduction de la TPS, les consommateurs et les entreprises peuvent se rendre à **canada.gc.ca/tps** ou appeler au **1-866-959-7798**.

Canada

Ющенко дав інтерв'ю для фільму про Джеймса Мейса

(УНІАН)—Президент України Віктор Ющенко дав інтерв'ю для документального фільму «Свіча Джеймса Ернеста Мейса».

Як повідомили УНІАН у прес-службі глави держави, у ході розмови Ющенко поділився своїми спогадами про особисті зустрічі з Джеймсом Мейсом, який одним із перших почав публічно давати системну і чітку оцінку Голодомору 1932-1933 років.

Глава держави нагадав, що саме Мейс запропонував ідею вшановувати пам'ять жертв Голодомору свічкою на вікні.

Президент зробив акцент на відданості американського дослідника цій проблематиці. «Якщо ти торкнувся теми Голодомору, незалежно від того, яка нація тебе народила, ти вже стаєш наполовину українцем», - сказав Ющенко.

«Сьогодні я сказав би йому обов'язково, що він став українцем, і подякував би йому від імені Української нації за те, що він зробив», - такими словами Президент України оцінив спадок і особисту роль американського історика.

Ющенко також відзначив внесок Дж.Мейса як викладача, ідеї якого сформували у студентів нові цінності та інше осмислення цієї трагедії української історії.

Документальний фільм продюсерської агенції «Стожари» «Свіча Джеймса Ернеста Мейса» вийде на телеекрани до березня 2008 року. Презентація стрічки відбудеться 18 лютого.

Автори фільму проводять інтерв'ю з відомими українцями: політиками, істориками, громадськими діячами, які розповідають про трагедію України, дають оцінку подіям 1932-1933 років та згадують Мейса.

Документальний фільм створюється на виконання Розпорядження Президента України Ющенка №1260 від 2 грудня 2005 року та за підтримки Міністерства культури і туризму України. Також на початковому етапі створення фільму підтримали Микола Жулинський та Євген Сверстюк.

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Прокуратура зайнялася бійкою Черновецького та Луценка

(Новинар/УНІАН)—Прокуратура Києва розпочала перевірку фактів, викладених у заяві Київського міського голови Леоніда Черновецького щодо інциденту, що стався між ним та міністром внутрішніх справ України Юрієм Луценком після засідання РНБО 18 січня.

Про це повідомив прокурор Києва Євген Блаживський.

Він не зазначив, коли саме Черновецький звернувся до прокуратури, однак сказав, що в ній мер столиці просив надати йому дозвіл на проходження судово-медичної експертизи. Як зауважив прокурор, "кожна людина має на це право, і відповідно за результатами експертизи, буде прийматися рішення".

Як повідомлялося раніше, Черновецький розповсюдив заяву, що "на засіданні Ради національної безпеки і оборони України, у присутності губернаторів та інших високих посадовців, міністр внутрішніх справ Луценко, не маючи аргументів у дискусії і втративши контроль над собою, по-варварськи накинувся на мера Києва".

"Така дикунська поведінка – ганьба для всієї України. Я не дозволю дикунам влаштовувати в столиці і в країні таке "беззаконня" і обов'язково доведу кримінальну справу до кінця. На цього пана (Луценка) чекає або психлікарня, або в.язниця", - заявив Черновецький.

Після цього Луценко розповів, що на засіданні РНБО, не називаючи конкретних прізвищ, він говорив про величезну кількість столичної землі, яка незаконно розподіляється Київрадою, і що Генеральна прокуратура України повинна не просто подавати протести на конкретні рішення Київради, а й накладати арешт на ці землі. За словами Луценка, після того, як усі присутні на РНБО погодились з пропозицією про створення спільних груп з представників ДПУ, МВС і СБУ для перевірки законності відведення земель у Києві, Черновецький заявив: "Луценко, Віктор Андрійович, вимагав у мене землю нібито для міліціонерів, і якщо я не дам, – обіцяв заарештувати мого сина".

Луценко зазначив, що це відверта брехня, і що після закінченню РНБО, коли Президент України пішов, він сказав Черновецькому, що той "брехун і просто падлюка, і так нормальні люди не чинять".

"Після цього, - сказав міністр, - пан Черновецький підступно вдарив мене по коліну". У відповідь, за словами Луценка, він дав Черновецькому ляпаса – чоловічого, відкритого.

"Я не збираюся вибачатись, я вчинив як людина, як громадянин, як Луценко", - заявив міністр внутрішніх справ.

Луценко не жалкує про чоловічий вчинок: Так повинен зробити кожен

(Новинар/УНІАН)—Міністр внутрішніх справ України Юрій Луценко не жалкує про побиття Київського міського голови Леоніда Черновецького. Про це він сказав 20 січня в Івано-Франківську, повідомляє "5-й канал".

"Я не жалкую з цього приводу і вважаю, що це чоловічий вчинок, який має зробити кожен, хто хоче жити в чесній державі", - заявив Луценко.

"Багато хто з нас у повсякденному житті відчуває як багато лайна і бруду навколо. І ми постійно жаліємося, що ось так пройдисвіти, брехуни і злодії керують нами, а чесні люди - якось мовчать. Я вважаю, що на відверту брутальну брехню треба відповідати", - пояснив свій вчинок міністр внутрішніх справ.

"Мова йде не про звичайну брехню під час політичних дебатів або десь там на вулиці. Мова йшла про засідання конституційного органу - Ради національної безпеки і оборони України, де розглядалося питання земельних афер. І людина, яка має відповідати за повне пограбування столиці України, кидає абсолютно брехливе звинувачення", - зазначив Луценко.

"Я вважаю, що мовчати, дивлячись на брехню, досить. Не можна брехати, але не можна і терпіти брехунів", - додав міністр.

Ющенко вніс до ВР законопроект про визнання ОУН-УПА

(Новинар)—Президент України вніс до ВР законопроект Про правовий статус учасників боротьби за незалежність України у 20–90-х рр. XX століття.

За ним, Віктор Ющенко пропонує визнати учасниками боротьби за українську незалежність вояків УПА, членів ОУН, Української головної визвольної ради, Карпатської Січі та Української військової організації.

У разі прийняття закону, учасників боротьби за незалежність України отримають соціальні гарантії від держави держава гарантує соціальний захист. Також, вони зможуть отримувати матеріальну та іншу допомогу від органів місцевого самоврядування за рахунок коштів місцевих бюджетів.

Згідно із законопроектом учасникам боротьби за незалежність України видадуть відповідні посвідчення. А за порушення їхніх прав, гарантованих законодавством, встановлюватимуть відповідальність.

Нагадаємо, 14 жовтня 2007 року під час святкування 65-річчя створення Української Повстанської Армії у Палаці Україна Віктор Ющенко, вітаючи ветеранів УПА, закликав парламент визнати ветеранів українського підпілля на державному рівні.

УНП закликає Кабмін інформувати суспільство про боротьбу ОУН-УПА

(Новинар/Українські новини)—Українська народна партія закликає Кабінет Міністрів внести до програми уряду зобов'язання інформувати населення про національно-визвольну боротьбу Організації українських націоналістів - Українську повстанську армію в період з 1941 по 1952 рік.

Про це йдеться в повідомленні прес-служби УНП. "Українська держава приділяє мало уваги інформаційним кампаніям для ліквідації стереотипів радянського періоду - як по відношенню до НАТО, так і до ОУН-УПА", - повідомляє прес-служба заступника голови УНП, депутата Верховної Ради від фракції Блоку Наша Україна-Народна самооборона Ярослава Джоджика.

"Ці стереотипи ділять країну на дві частини - тих, чиї батьки воювали за незалежність України, і тих, хто знає про цю боротьбу з радянських підручників", - вважає замісник голови УНП.

Депутат упевнений, що більшість українців не володіють інформацією про боротьбу ОУН-УПА.

"Вивчаючи історію ОУН-УПА, яка боролася одночасно з двома найстрашнішими імперіями в історії XX століття, - нацистською Німеччиною і комуністичним Радянським Союзом, ми ще раз переконуємося в героїзмі українського народу, його прагненні до свободи", - передає прес-служба слова депутата.

Як повідомлялося, в грудні Служба безпеки України створила спеціальну робочу групу для вивчення архівних документів про діяльність ОУН-УПА.

У жовтні 2007 року Президент Віктор Ющенко закликав українців цікавитися історією української повстанської армії.

Головатий залишився в європейському кріслі

(Українська правда)—Парламентська асамблея Ради Європи переобрала віце-президентом Сергія Головатого. Про таке голосування повідомляє сайт ПАРЄ. Головатий обраний разом з 18 іншими віце-президентами, які представляють Іспанію, Сербію, Албанію, Андору, Швейцарію, Вірменію, Німеччину, Боснію та Герцеговину, Польщу, Росію, Швецію, Францію, Австрію, Великобританію, Італію, Азербайджан, Бельгію та Словаччину. Місце віце-президента від Кіпру поки залишається вакантним.

Russia threatens Ukraine over NATO move

(Ukrainian Journal)—Russia warned Ukraine on Jan. 22 that Kyiv's accession to NATO would "seriously aggravate" relations between the two countries and would probably trigger unspecified sanctions from Moscow in response.

The warning comes days after Ukraine formally asked NATO for permission to join the Membership Action Plan, the last program preceding accession to the alliance, in April.

"Ukraine's possible integration into NATO will seriously aggravate multi-dimensional Russian-Ukrainian relations," the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. "We will be forced to take adequate measures."

The warning is the strongest reaction from Moscow yet since Ukraine has sought to accelerate its accession to NATO by formally asking to join the MAP. Although there is no particular time frame, a country usually accedes to NATO between one to two years after joining the MAP.

Russia did not specify the possible sanctions it may impose, but analysts said cooperation in military and defense sector, such as joint production of arms, will probably be curtailed.

Russia, Ukraine's only supplier of natural gas, may also seek to further increase gas prices it charges Ukraine by bringing them closer to the average European gas prices, analysts said.

Ukraine currently buys gas from Russia at $179.5 per 1,000 cubic meters, up from $130/1,000 cu m last year, but the average gas price in Europe exceeds $300/1,000 cu m, analysts said.

Russia apparently fears that Ukraine's accession to NATO would present a major security threat as Moscow claims the alliance has been resorting to practices leftover from the Cold War. The statement did not elaborate.

"The new radical expansion of NATO may lead to serious military and political shift that will inevitably affect security interests of Russia," the statement said. NATO is "an organization, whose transition to new, different from the Cold War, realities are far from completion," the statement said.

Ukraine seeks to join the MAP in April, at a NATO-Ukraine summit scheduled to take place in Bucharest.

President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk signed the formal request to join the MAP in a letter submitted to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

"Completely sharing European democratic values the country sees itself as a part of the Euro-Atlantic security space and is ready together with NATO and its partners to counteract joint security threats," the letter said

Oleh Bilorus, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament, said Moscow has been resorting to a "savage" reaction, and warned that Kyiv may also response with sanctions.

"Sanctions are a bilateral thing," said Bilorus, a member of the group led by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. "Things like that must be actively reacted to."

Yushchenko reshuffles top security body

(Ukrainian Journal)—President Viktor Yushchenko on Jan. 21 reshuffled his top security body, the National Security and Defense Council, removing 25 loyal regional leaders and limiting the number of seats in the body to 14.

The move underscores growing confidence at the Yushchenko office that the president now has been keeping political situation under control following last year's constitutional crisis and the clash with the government.

The council is Ukraine's top security authority and is allowed under certain circumstances to override decisions taken by the government, according to the constitution. Yushchenko used that clause during the standoff with the pro-Russian government of then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych.

In the midst of the standoff in May 2007, Yushchenko appointed 25 regional governors to the council, a move that had given the president an overwhelming control over the body. All governors have been previously appointed to their top regional posts by the president, ensuring their loyalty.

Analysts said Yushchenko may have been preparing to use the council as an interim government in the event the clash with the Yanukovych government had persisted and escalated.

But tensions eased in early June 2007, after Yanukovych had accepted Yushchenko's plan for the snap election in September 2007 as the way out of the crisis.

Yushchenko's party, Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense, jointly with the group led by Yulia Tymoshenko, won the election, helping to unseat Yanukovych and to appoint the loyal pro-Western government last month.

Now, after removing the governors from the council, Yushchenko limited the number of seats in the body at 14.

The council now includes Yushchenko, his chief of staff Viktor Baloha, and Raisa Bohatyriova, the secretary of the council. She is also a member of opposition Regions Party.

The council also includes Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, head of the Foreign Intelligence Service Mykola Malomuzh, Prosecutor General Oleksandr Medvedko, acting head of the SBU security service Valentyn Nalyvaychenko, Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko.

It also includes Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Parliamentary Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk, Emergency Situations Minister Volodymyr Shandra, National Bank of Ukraine Governor Volodymyr Stelmakh and National Academy of Sciences President Boris Paton.

Yushchenko insists on quick abolition of parliamentary immunity

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko said on January 22 that the Verkhovna Rada during its ongoing session should pass a draft bill abolishing parliament deputies' immunity from prosecution, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Vyacheslav Kyrylenko of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc (NUNS) and Ivan Kyrylenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYuT) on Jan. 21 submitted the corresponding draft to the parliament.

The annulment of parliamentary immunity must first be approved by a simple majority in the Verkhovna Rada, then confirmed by the Constitutional Court, and finally the 450-seat parliament must approve it by a two-thirds majority. The coalition of the BYuT and NUNS controls 228 seats in the Verkhovna Rada.

Also on Jan. 22, President Yushchenko met with leaders of parliamentary factions and called on them to nominate representatives to the National Constitutional Council, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Yushchenko created the Constitutional Council in December 2007 in order to prepare a new version of the Ukrainian Constitution.

Yushchenko told the meeting that at least 230 candidates to the council have been proposed so far, including representatives of four parties represented in the parliament.

"The opposition must be involved to the maximum. This is of crucial significance for me," Interfax quoted Yushchenko as saying.

Viktor Yanukovych, leader of the opposition Party of Regions, said that his party is holding off on nominating its candidates until a meeting with the president.

"If we are at the start and if we are beginning to move along this way, our party will undoubtedly participate," Yanukovych said.

Yulia sticks to her guns

Yushchenko warns against revision of gas deal

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko reiterated on Jan. 23 that Ukraine and Russia should hold talks on the level of transit fees for the shipment of Russian natural gas to Europe via Ukraine, UNIAN reported.

Tymoshenko said that Russia has increased the price for natural gas delivered to Ukraine threefold since the start of 2006, while the shipment fee has remained unchanged.

Tymoshenko also said she has ordered experts to examine fuel transit pricing schemes in other countries.

Two days ear;ier President Viktor Yushchenko recently urged caution in international energy policy, claiming that renegotiating transit fees with Russia might result in increased prices for Ukrainian gas consumers.

"Ukraine's policy toward gas transit should remain specific" as long as Ukraine receives Turkmen gas through Russia, Yushchenko said.

He said the price Ukraine pays Russia to bring 55 billion cubic meters of gas the 2,500 kilometers from Turkmenistan corresponds approximately to the price for transit of 127 billion cubic meters of Russian gas across 1,100 kilometers of Ukrainian territory.

He argued that it is "illogical" to raise the price at one side and have it raised at the other.

Yushchenko said that Ukraine "every year faces...new prices" for gas delivery, but at the same time it receives gas from Central Asia at the lowest possible price.

Ukraine currently pays $179.50 per 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas, while Russia pays Ukraine $1.7 for the transit of 1,000 cubic meters of gas per 100 kilometers.

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UN Office; (780) 488-3693; Advertising: (780) 488-3860
Fax: (780) 488-3859; E-mail: ukrnews@compusmart.ab.ca

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Editor: Marco Levytsky
Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Holodomor education must be compulsory

Ukrainian Canadians in every province should press for inclusion

The Toronto District School Board's decision to leave the Holodomor out of the three major focus points of its new "Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications" curriculum for Grade 11 students is misguided and should be immediately rectified.

TDSB spokesperson Nadine Segal's explanation that students will be "expected" to study "other examples of genocide", which is the category that the Holodomor has been lumped into by the board, through "independent study work" is unacceptable.

As Orest Steciw, Co-ordinator of Holodomor Projects for the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, rightfully points out "independent study" implies "optional", and "optional" means the Holodomor won't be studied by students unless the teacher insists on it.

We also find the explanation of why the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and the Rwandan genocide were prioritized, while the Holodomor was left out, rather hollow.

First of all, let's get one thing straight. With an estimated seven to 10 million victims, the Holodomor was the biggest mass murder in European history. The sheer massive scope of this genocide makes it crucial that its study be made mandatory.

Furthermore, if the TDSB wants to use the euphemism of "comparative study" in noting the contemporary implications of the Holocaust in Rwanda, it should be pointed out that there is a very definite contemporary implication of the Holodomor. Genocide by starvation is happening today in Darfur.

We must also point out that while awareness of the Holocaust is very widespread, awareness of the Holodomor is woefully minimal. The board's own decision not to include the Holodomor as one of its focal points is, in itself, a glaring example of the general lack of awareness about the Holodomor. We must emphasize that in pointing out the levels of awareness we are not by any means suggesting that the Holocaust should not be studied. What we are saying, however, is that the lack of general awareness about the Holodomor makes it all the more imperative that it too be studied and that this study be made compulsory.

Members of Toronto's Ukrainian community should make it clear to their elected trustees that the Holodomor should be included as a compulsory component of its genocide program. Members of our community across Ontario should also press this issue with the Ministry of Education. The same applies to Ukrainian Canadians in every province — especially our community in Western Canada, which, with its large proportion of Canadians of Ukrainian origin and history of settlement, has to take the lead in this initiative.

The fact that we are now commemorating the 75th anniversary of this genocide makes it all the more Pressing that we demand the compulsory teaching about the Holodomor in our schools — and that we demand it now!

As Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko recently stated:

"The Holodomor was an act of genocide designed to suppress the Ukrainian nation. The fact that it failed and Ukraine today exists as a proud and independent nation does nothing to lessen the gravity of this crime. Nor does it acquit us of the moral responsibility to acknowledge what was done. On the 75th anniversary, we owe it to the victims of the Holodomor and other genocides to be truthful in facing up to the past."

The Ukrainian Best & Worst List for 2007

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

Almost everyone has a favorite list this time of year — best movies, books, person of the year. For the fifth year, here is my best and worst comprising governments, individuals, publications, and organizations which made the global Ukrainian community in 2007 the way it was.

Best

1.The Ukrainian people who made a free choice to give the Orange forces a slight victory in the snap elections; Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko who cobbled an Orange government despite internal and foreign intrigues; and President Victor Yushchenko who took 80 days but ultimately respected the will of the people and called to Orange forces to form the government.

2.The Polish government for being the first to recognize the Soviet perpetrated famine of 1932-33, which starved 10 million, as genocide against the Ukrainian people.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for telling Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine Victor Chernomyrdyn — possibly for the first time — to cease his undiplomatic behaviour of criticizing Ukraine for making strides in declaring the Soviet famine (above) a genocide; and for recognizing the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which battled Russia's occupation, as a legitimate military force of WWII.

4. YouTube for giving universal access to such footage as <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrRhtbLQ5pA> and <http://resources.ushmm.org/film/display/info.php?file_num=855> which haunts and motivates to ensure that injustices committed in Ukraine during WWII are viewed and passed on to people with a heart, and acknowledged by the world community.

5. The Canadian government for ensuring the citizenship rights of Wasyl Odynsky and Volodymyr Katriuk after a prolonged probe into alleged war crimes during the Nazi occupation of Ukraine.*

6. Premier Ed Stelmach's Alberta government for following the initiative of Manitoba and undertaking a program to bring workers from Ukraine to meet provincial labour shortages.

7. The Embassy of Ukraine in Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) for proposing former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for the Yaroslav Mudry award, Ukraine's highest. During his term, 1991, Canada became the first western country to recognize Ukraine's sovereignty.

8. Ukraine's media, in particular Ukrayinska Pravda, Unian and Maidan for continuing to bring news and analyses from Ukraine to readers around the world.

9. International media, in particular The Washington Post, and the Financial Times for more coverage of Ukraine than seen in most other outlets (which remain silent despite its size and importance in the re-emerging cold war and world peace).

10. Britain's Maria Lewycka for introducing, in great numbers, the literary English speaking world to Ukrainian characters, history and issues through hilarious best seller A History of Ukrainian Tractors.

Worst

1. All politicians who impeded the voters' choice for an Orange parliament with Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister before acknowledging the supreme will of the people in a democracy.

2. Russia's President Alexander Putin for interfering by telling Ukraine's former Prime Minister Victor Yanukhovych, weeks before the outcome, that he would remain Ukraine's prime minister.

3. Russia's Ambassador Alexander Chornomyrdyn for interfering by declaring 2 days before Ukraine's parliamentary elections that the cost of energy there will depend on who gets elected.

4. Russia's government for "finding" a $1.3 billion energy debt owed by Ukraine days after its people elected a slight Orange majority in parliament.

5. Olga Ginsberg, Head of Ukraine's State Archives Committee for denying access to materials dealing with USSR's oppression in Ukraine and questioning, sarcastically, the need to know; her boss, Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk for not firing her for inappropriate statements; and his boss, Prime Minister Victor Yanukhovych for not censuring both.

6. Again, Russia's Ambassador Alexander Chornomyrdyn for calling the Memorial Museum, devoted to documenting abuses of the Soviet era, an affront to the Russian people, rather than apologizing for the heinous crimes committed by the Kremlin against Ukraine and Ukrainians.

7. UNESCO for refusing to recognize the Soviet Famine of Ukraine 1932-33 as an act of genocide undertaken by USSR's Joseph Stalin, Lazar Kaganovych et al against Ukrainians by not taking into account the precedent that the Nazi Holocaust of WWII did not strictly conform to the definition of genocide as the exclusive elimination of one group. Non Jewish opponents of the Nazi regime perished as well.

8. UCC and UCCLA (Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association) for failing to obtain government funding commensurate with the internment of Canadians, mostly Ukrainians, as foreign aliens during WWI; and Canada's government for pursuing political ends here rather than justice. Some $25 million will be distributed to any group meeting funding criteria. **

9. Men, who demean Ukrainian women by calling them dyevushka, a derogatory moniker as unacceptable as calling a Black person nigger; Ukrainian women, who allow such name calling.

10. Russia's ultra-nationalist youth movements, for destroying Tryzub, and other national symbols in Ukraine, hacking the President's website and, allegedly, those of key news carriers, including Maidan.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is a commentator and President U*CAN Ukraine Canada Relations Inc., a consulting firm.

Ukrainian News Editor's Notes: We have nothing but the utmost respect for Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, but beg to differ on a couple of her choices. They are as follows:

*Under no circumstances can the statement be made that the Government of Canada ensured the citizenship rights of Wasyl Odynsky and Volodymyr Katriuk. The select cabinet committee known as the Governor in Council simply decided on May 17 not to revoke the citizenship of Wasyl Odynsky and Vladimir Katriuk. As the decision reads: "Her Excellency the Governor in Council, having considered the report of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration made under section 10 of the Citizenship Act in relation to the person named in the annexed schedule, hereby declines to exercise the power conferred by section 10 of the Citizenship Act in respect to that person." That's the equivalent of a suspended sentence in a criminal court. Their citizenship right and those of another 6 million naturalized Canadians will only be ensured when the government amends the current Citizenship Act to make the citizenship revocation process consistent with the Charter of Rights.

** It is totally unfair to blame the UCC and UCCLA for the fact that the Conservative government initially decided to renege upon the agreement that the previous Liberal government reached with the Ukrainian Canadian Community. To their credit the UCC and UCCLA negotiators did not cave in, but stuck to their guns and got the government back to negotiating table. As a result considerable progress has been made during the last two months, and an agreement favourable to both parties may be coming.

RCMP WW II war crimes investigations continue

Please be advised that the RCMP are still actively investigating allegations of war crimes committed during WWII.

A member of the Ukrainian Canadian community was contacted recently by an RCMP officer who said he was following up on an old, previously uninvestigated list of alleged war criminals.

Please speak to your elderly parents and relatives and advise them that if an RCMP officer or investigator telephones them or knocks on their door they are to do the following, all of which is within their constitutional rights:

• They should not speak to or say anything whatsoever to the officer/investigator. This includes small talk, casual conversation, confirmation of identity, date or place of birth, country of origin, citizenship, etc.

• Instead, they should take the name and telephone number of the investigator and tell them that their lawyer will get back to them. They should then close the door or hang up the telephone.

• Please ask your relatives to contact you so that you can arrange legal counsel for them.

In every case that has proceeded to court thus far, the accused individuals gave voluntary statements to the police investigators. Many members of our community are not aware of their legal right to counsel and out of fear, or in the mistaken belief that they have no choice in the matter, give voluntary, potentially incriminating statements to the police. The investigators are experienced interrogators and adopt a friendly, non-threatening manner to encourage the accused to speak to them without presence of counsel. They will start with casual, seemingly non-threatening questions intended to disarm the accused and to get them talking.

They are not obligated to advise you of the right to counsel, so it is crucial that anyone who is contacted by the police say nothing at all to the investigator until they have a lawyer with them.

It is preferable to contact a lawyer who is experienced in criminal matters.

Tymoshenko and Yushchenko clash over battling corruption

By Taras Kuzio

(Jamestown Foundation)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has made combating corruption and strengthening the rule of law central elements in her government's policy. She is apparently starting at the highest levels of the government.

The issue of the lack of action against corruption led to a physical showdown on Jan. 18 in the presidential secretariat. Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko struck Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky over his alleged involvement in corrupt land schemes. Lutsenko said afterward, "I have no regrets for this incident and believe that it was a manly hit that should be undertaken by everybody who wants to live in an honest state."

On Dec. 7, 2007, Lutsenko and Tymoshenko bloc (BYuT) deputy Svyatoslav Oliynyk introduced a parliamentary resolution to remove General Prosecutor Oleksandr Medvedko. The Rada was set to debate the resolution on Jan. 18, but that was postponed when Medvedko conveniently checked into a clinic earlier in the week.

While Tymoshenko has backed the call for Medvedko's replacement, President Viktor Yushchenko has passed responsibility for the decision to parliament. According to the constitution, the president puts forward a candidate for general prosecutor while parliament has the right to demand a performance report and to follow this with a vote of no confidence.

The draft motion collected 180 signatures out of the 227 members of the pro-democratic orange coalition, consisting of BYuT and Our Ukraine-Peoples' Self Defense (NUNS). While all BYuT deputies signed the resolution, NUNS — specifically its pro-grand coalition wing, loyal to the president — is divided.

Medvedko's job is politically linked to that of Raisa Bohatyryova, the former Party of Regions parliamentary faction leader appointed secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) on Dec. 24. Both Medvedko and Bohatyryova are from Donetsk, the Party of Region's stronghold. Stepan Havrysh, legal adviser to the 2004 Yanukovych election campaign, was also appointed deputy head of the NSDC on Jan. 18.

Having the trio in high posts reassures the Party of Regions that they have protection from the Tymoshenko government. Their appointments also conclude the deal cut between Yushchenko and the Party of Regions to end the spring 2007 political crisis. The grand coalition between Yushchenko and the Party of Regions that existed in early 2007 has de facto been recreated outside parliament.

Medvedko became general prosecutor in November 2005 and has remained in that position except for a brief period in April 2007. That month he was replaced by Sviatoslav Piskun, who had served as general prosecutor from December 2004 through October 2005, as well as earlier under President Leonid Kuchma in July 2002-October 2003.

Herein lies the dilemma. Yushchenko claims to support a break with the Kuchma era and a battle against corruption, but his choice of general prosecutors has been inconsistent with this statement. Maintaining Piskun in place for the first ten months of his presidency reassured the Kuchma-era elites of their immunity from prosecution, which had been negotiated during the Orange Revolution's roundtables in late 2004.

The anti-Medvedko resolution is highly critical of his record as general prosecutor. It calls for a vote of no confidence because of Medvedko's failure to resolve any of Ukraine's sensational crimes, such as the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze in 2000, Yushchenko's poisoning during the 2004 presidential election, and high-level involvement in election fraud that same year.

Under Yushchenko, no general prosecutor has done much to advance the rule of law or to combat high-level corruption and abuse of office among Ukraine's elites. As Zerkalo nedeli wrote, "Fortunately, groundless political repressions are no longer an element of public policy. Unfortunately, deserved punishments are not, either."

Other parties have poor records as well. Two senior Socialists, (former interior and transport ministers Vasyl Tsushko and Mykola Rudkovsky), from the previous government of Party of Regions prime minister Viktor Yanukovych, are under investigation, but, based on past experience, they are unlikely to be prosecuted. As a recent Atlantic Council of the United States report pointed out, the Party of Regions has never expressed much interest in battling corruption. Ukrainians give very low marks to the second Yanukovych government (2006-2007) for failing to battle corruption.

Although most political parties claim they are in favor of combating corruption, especially at election time, Ukrainians remain skeptical. The 2007 Transparency International survey found that the majority of Ukrainians believe that the judiciary is the most corrupt institution in Ukraine, followed by political parties, parliament, and the Interior Ministry. When asked if there would be a breakthrough in overcoming corruption over the next three years, 44% of Ukrainians said "No," while 38% said corruption would increase. Only 18% of Ukrainians believed that corruption would decline by the end of Yushchenko's first term in office in 2010.

Some 70% of Ukrainians do not believe that the authorities are effective in their struggle against corruption. Another 22% saw no results from the campaign, while only 8% believed any campaign was effective.

Ukrainians are particularly disappointed with the president who, they believe, has continued Kuchma's virtual campaign against corruption. The Atlantic Council wrote, "While there are many reasons for the persistence of corruption in Ukraine, polling suggests that public disappointment is particularly strong in the case of President Yushchenko, as many voters believe he is one of the few top politicians who is not tainted by corruption. Yet, Ukrainians believe he has done too little to fight it." Only 21% of Ukrainians believe the president has shown the political will to combat corruption.

NUNS deputy and deputy head of the parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement Volodymyr Stretovych said, "He [Yushchenko] has outlined a campaign against corruption that he repeated many times. But without cardinal cadre changes in the procuracy, nothing will change. In the current situation the procuracy is corrupt from bottom to top, from the raion to the general prosecutor."

The Tymoshenko government is committed to battling corruption and reforming law enforcement, including in the procuracy. Tymoshenko has stated that she will not run in the 2009 presidential elections if her government's reforms and campaign against corruption are successful; she believes they were blocked by the president in 2005 during her first government.

Yushchenko is caught between having to choose to protect the Party of Regions and further inaction against elite abuse of office or supporting the Tymoshenko government. The two are in direct contradiction.

Unity Day holds bittersweet meanings

By Will Zuzak

Ever since I was a child, our family always celebrated Jan. 22, 1918, as Ukrainian Independence Day. That was the day the Ukrainian government, under Simon Petliura, declared independence from the collapsing Tsarist Russian Empire.

Unfortunately, Ukraine was soon conquered by the Bolshevik Red Army and incorporated into the Soviet Union, and Petliura was assassinated in 1926.

It was not until 1991 that Ukraine regained its independence — hopefully, for good. (Ed. Note: Following the Aug. 24, 1991, Declaration of Independence, Jan. 22 has been renamed "Unity Day" ["Den' Sobornosty" in Ukrainian] to commemorate the union of the Ukrainian People's Republic [Ukrayinska Narodna Respublika] with the Western Ukrainian People's Republic [Zakhidna Ukrayinska Narodna Respublika] on Jan. 22, 1919.)

However, from secret documents declassified in Ukraine recently, we learn that this anniversary date carries a more sinister significance for the Holodomor — the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-33. On Jan. 22, 1933, Josef Stalin issued his infamous decree to seal the borders of Ukraine to prevent starving peasants from entering Belarus or Russia in search of food — thus ensuring the deaths by starvation of some 10 million people.

Since the summer of 1932, Communist functionaries in Ukraine warned Stalin of the developing famine conditions and pleaded with him to lower the grain procurement quotas and even to send food relief to stricken areas. Stalin's response was to accuse the Communist Party of Ukraine of being infiltrated by Petliurites and bourgeois nationalists, to purge its leadership and to send in hardliners such as Viacheslav Molotov, Lazar Kaganovich and Vsevolod Balitsky to enforce the grain procurement decrees.

Reports by Balitsky and OGPU chief Genrikh Yagoda informed Stalin of a massive exodus of peasants from Ukraine since December 1932.

Within six weeks of Stalin's decree, 220,000 persons had been arrested, of which 187,000 were sent back to their villages to starve, while the rest were either sent to the Gulag or shot.

One wonders if Stalin and his entourage took particular satisfaction in destroying the Ukrainian nation exactly 15 years after its initial declaration of independence? So in 2008, should Ukrainians celebrate or mourn this anniversary?

Tymoshenko launches state audit, payout program

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—Having barely formed her Cabinet of Ministers, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko got down to business. She resumed several campaigns that she had launched when she was prime minister in 2005 but were dismissed by her successors as too "populist." In addition to starting to reshape the energy market, she also began to compensate Ukrainians for savings lost amid the 1991 Soviet Union dissolution.

"I want us to start getting used to politicians fulfilling obligations taken during elections," Tymoshenko told ICTV. She promised a lot in the run-up to the September 2007 election, which swept her back to the prime minister's chair. If she fails to deliver on her promises — such as fighting corruption, removing intermediaries from the gas trade with Russia, increasing wages and pensions, and reimbursing Soviet-era savings — the presidential election campaign of 2009 will be lost for her before it starts.

Meeting the new head of the Naftohaz Ukrainy national oil and gas company, Oleh Dubyna, on Jan. 2, Tymoshenko pledged to save Naftohaz from bankruptcy. She appointed her long-time right-hand man, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov, to chair a commission to check Naftohaz's activities in 2006-2007. Naftohaz operated at a loss during the period. It accumulated a multi-billion dollar debt and failed to come up with a timely financial report for 2006, so it is teetering on the brink of default. Tymoshenko said that the Ukrainian state would guarantee Naftohaz's debts, after which Fitch upgraded Naftohaz's senior unsecured rating from "B+" to "BB–."

By checking Naftohaz, Tymoshenko will not only improve the company's performance, but the move also shows that Naftohaz's interests, as well as national interests, were damaged by her predecessors' reliance on one intermediary in gas trade with Russia. Tymoshenko insists that RosUkrEnergo, a Swiss-registered joint-venture between Gazprom and Ukrainian businessman Dmytro Firtash, should cease to be the monopoly supplier of natural gas to Ukraine. However, her opponents warn that changing the existing scheme may result in higher gas prices for Ukraine.

On Jan. 8, Tymoshenko ordered a comprehensive audit of the coal industry. "I want miners, their families, and the whole society to learn about every instance of abuse in the coal sector," she said. Ukraine's coal mines have been among the main sources of wealth for Tymoshenko's arch-rivals from the Party of Regions (PRU), whose stronghold is Donbas, Ukraine's main mining region.

On Jan. 9, Tymoshenko announced that the "Contraband, Stop!" campaign would be re-launched. In 2005 Tymoshenko had lowered import duties on goods like fruit and mobile phones, simultaneously purging the ranks of the customs service. Among other things, the campaign targeted smuggling across the border with Moldova's breakaway Transnistria region. "Contraband, Stop!" was shelved under Tymoshenko's successors.

The re-privatization campaign may also be re-launched. It scared many potential investors and was arguably one of the main reasons behind Tymoshenko's dismissal by President Viktor Yushchenko in September 2005. On Jan. 10, the Supreme Court threw out an appeal against an earlier court ruling that invalidated the privatization of the Luhansk locomotive plant in 2007. Both Tymoshenko and Yushchenko believe that the plant's sale to a Russian company was not transparent.

On Jan. 12, Tymoshenko said that Nikopol Ferroalloys Plant (NFZ) should be re-nationalized. NFZ was sold in 2003 to Viktor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of the then-President Leonid Kuchma. Tymoshenko pledged to return NFZ to the state in 2005, but although courts invalidated the deal in 2005-2006, court rulings have been ignored.

On Jan. 9, Tymoshenko also launched an ambitious campaign to repay lost Soviet-era savings. Neither of the former Soviet republics has managed to reimburse them. This is a serious test for Tymoshenko's ability to muster popular support. Her presidential election chances will depend to a great extent on the success of this particular campaign, as millions of unfortunate depositors are involved.

The campaign's beginning has not been very successful, which may undermine popular trust in Tymoshenko. First, the state budget provides for only a fraction of the sum that is to be repaid. The rest should come from privatization proceedings in 2008-2009, whose volume is hard to predict. Second, Tymoshenko equated the Ukrainian hryvnia to the Soviet ruble, which was considerably stronger, so depositors will receive much less than actually was lost. Third, only 1,000 hryvnias ($200) will be compensated in cash per depositor, irrespective of the actual size of the deposit. Fourth, the campaign has been poorly organized. The elderly have to spend hours in lines, and they are poorly informed about the procedures. One old man died of a heart attack outside a bank in Zaporizhya, and one elderly lady had her leg broken in a stampede at a bank in Cherkasy.

Tymoshenko's rivals seized the opportunity to expose the campaign's weaknesses. The PRU press service accused Tymoshenko of "seeking publicity at any cost." "People are being fooled, receiving just 1,000 hryvnias for the lost deposits," the Party of Free Democrats said in a statement.

Feast of Jordan celebrated at Ukrainian Village

(UkrNews)—Over 300 attended the Feast of Jordan celebrations, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Alberta Provincial Council and the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, Jan. 19.

"I thought that, given the quick collaborative effort, it went well," said UCC – APC President Daria Luciw. "I was particularly proud of how our community responded in terms of performance and attendance."

This holiday commemorates the baptism of Christ and is more commonly known as the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6 by the Gregorian calendar, Jan. 19 by the Julian), and is one of the most important holy days of the Ukrainian church calendar. It is part of the Ukrainian Christmas season, which end with the Feast of the Encounter of the Lord in the Temple (Stritennia), Feb. 2 by the Gregorian calendar, Feb. 15 by the Julian.

Activities began with church services at all three historic churches, located at the village, which recreates Ukrainian pioneer settlements in Alberta — St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and St. Nicholas Russo-Greek Orthodox Church.

At the end of the services, priests from all three communities participated in a water blessing ceremony at the ice cross. Activities also included a *didukh* (ritual wheat sheaf) burning ceremony, house blessings and a concert at New Kiew Hall.

Performers included singers Mykola Bilash and Oles Lazurko; the children's theatrical ensemble of the Ukrainian Women's Organization, Dzherelo (Artistic Director — Alla Semenko, Musical Director — Dmytro Rusnak); violinist Skyler Hoffos; the youth theatrical group, Suziria, of the Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies; the Ardrossan Yatran Dance Association (Instructor — Sasha Tkachishyn) and the Axios Men's Choir (Director — Borys Derow).

PHOTOS — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Above: Fathers Slavko Dumec and Ivan Nykyforuk administer the Holy Communion at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. At Left: Left to Right: Nadia Kosmyna, Natalia Grytsiv, Vira Mykhaylyak and Marianka Mykhaylyak wore traditional Ukrainian scarves to the Blessing.

Bishop celebrates Feast of Jordan with Sherwood Park students

(Bottomline Productions)—As part of the Ukrainian Christmas Tradition, students, staff and supporters of the Sherwood Park Ukrainian Bilingual Program took part in the annual Feast of Jordan Celebration on Jan. 18 at Father Kenneth Kearns School.

Bishop David Motiuk was the celebrant for this Epiphany celebration which was attended by special guests Betty-Lou Bayduza, one of the original founders of the bilingual program; Laurie Bahri, Assessment & Curriculum Consultant of Elk Island Catholic Schools; and Joe Weleschuk, Director of Human Resources of Elk Island Catholic Schools. Students and staff of all three Sherwood Park bilingual schools — Father Kenneth Kearns, Jean Vanier and Archbishop Jordan High — took part.

Commemorating the baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by St. John the Baptist, the celebration included the blessing of water. A large ice-cross was prepared by school parent Ed Medwechuk and the gymnasium was beautifully decorated with tree boughs and student art works depicting Epiphany.

Following the celebration, Bishop Motiuk was presented with a gift by the students of the program. A framed triptych of "Our Culture; Our Celebrations; Our Faith" — commissioned to artist Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn on the occasion of the program's 25th Anniversary in 2005 — was given to the Bishop "as a show of appreciation for (his) and the Edmonton Eparchy's support of the program over the years".

Students, guests and family members were blessed with holy water as the Bishop made his way around the gymnasium then through school classrooms. Small vials of the blessed water were given to the students, teachers and guests for the blessing of their homes and lives in the new year.

At a reception following the celebration, the Father Kenneth Kearns-based "Bandurysty Molodtsi" — led by Professor Andriy Hornjatkevyc and Iryna Tarnawska — performed three selections for Bishop Motiuk and Jean Vanier students sang koliady under the direction of teacher Lesia Pohoreska.

In closing words to the group gathered, Darka Tarnawsky, President of the Bilingual Ukrainian Catholic Parents Society, added "It is so special that the important annual milestones of our faith and culture are a regular part of our community life in the program. We are very blessed and especially thankful to have Bishop David join us at this important celebration today."

PHOTO — OLEH CHERKAWSKY

Bishop David blesses the water.

Bishop attends Sviat Vechir at St. Matthew

Edmonton Eparch Bishop David Motiuk attended the "Sviat Vechir" luncheon put on by St. Michael's Health Group Catering Services, for the Ukrainian Bilingual Program at St, Matthew Catholic Elementary School Dec. 19. The "Sviat Vechir", which included a sampling of some of the 12 traditional dishes served during Ukrainian Christmas Eve, was organized in order to familiarize the students of the program, from Kindergarten to Grade Six, with Ukrainian Christmas traditions. Pictured above: Bishop Motiuk with St. Matthew's Ukrainian Bilingual Program Grade 1B teacher Christine Kolomijchuk and her class.

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

The show must go on. Vohon blazes away after the roof fire was extinguished.

Vohon razes the roof at Malanka

Cont. from Page 1

JPL fire brigade responded to the emergency.

"Both fire departments responded very quickly," JPL General Manager Amanda Robinson told the Fitzhugh, a Jasper community newspaper.

The fire was put out in about 20 minutes and one hour and 10 minutes later, guests were allowed back into the dining hall to resume Malanka festivities.

The fire ended up being the butt of many jokes that evening, especially by Master of Ceremonies Roman Bryan, who devised a top ten list for Vohon (which means fire in Ukrainian), said the group's Artistic Director Ken Kachmar.

Other performers included the "Tight I Tam" five-piece band from Saskatoon; Mira, a four member band, also from Saskatoon; the Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance, which is directly connected to Vohon; St. Basil's Choir from Edmonton and the Savaryn family musicians, consisting of pianist Motria, violinists Bohdan and Michael and cellist Julian.

Artists exhibiting their work during the three-day event, which had a varied program, were Marianna Savaryn, Val Boyko and Valerie Semenko.

Vohon is currently on a western Canadian tour,

They've already performed in Cold Lake, Lloydminster and Prince George, and are scheduled to appear in: Grande Prairie, Feb. 3; Winnipeg, Feb. 16; Dauphin, Feb. 17; and Fort McMurray, March 2.

Vohon plans to close their tour by burning up the stage at Edmonton's Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, March 15.

Ohryzko slams Russian statements on language policy

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko says the sentiments in the latest statements by the Russian Foreign Ministry concerning the history of Ukraine, the language policy and the situation with the rights of the national minorities in Ukraine may cause damage to the dynamical development of the Ukrainian-Russian relations.

Ohryzko made the statement at a meeting with Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Ohryzko and Chernomyrdin further discussed the vital issues of the Ukrainian-Russian relations and the plans of the bilateral contacts for the near future.

Russia has stated that Ukraine's decision to dub foreign films into Ukrainian amounts to non-fulfillment of its international obligations.

Russia marked the consolidation of Russophobia and anti-Semitism among Ukraine's nationalist organizations.

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Громадян Канади відзначено державними нагородами України

(Прес–служба Посольства України в Канаді)—Указом Президента України Віктора Ющенка № 33/2008 від 17 січня 2008 року за вагомий особистий внесок у популяризацію історичних та сучасних надбань України у світі, формування її позитивного міжнародного іміджу та з нагоди Дня Соборності України було нагороджено таких громадян Канади:

Кулія Петра Михайловича – мецената, громадського діяча, орденом "За заслуги" III ступеня;

Потічного Петра-Іосифа Петровича – професора МакМастерського університету, орденом "За заслуги" III ступеня;

Скрипик Маршу Форчук – письменницю, орденом княгині Ольги III ступеня.

Посольство України в Канаді вітає згаданих осіб з відзначенням державними нагородами України та бажає їм подальших успіхів у відповідальній громадській діяльності.

У Полтаві відбулося свято сала

(Новинар/УНІАН)—У Полтаві 19 січня за підтримки Блоку Юлії Тимошенко та під патронатом мера міста Андрія Матковського відбулося Свято сала.

Свято почалося з розрізування міським головою Андрієм Матковським смаженого порося, якого змогли скуштувати всі охочі.

"Полтава - столиця не тільки полтавських галушок, але й сала. По-перше, в Полтаві є науково-дослідний інститут свинарства, аналога якому немає в жодній країні СНД, а, по-друге, Полтава займає перше місце з виготовлення і споживання сала в Україні", - зазначив мер.

Присутні на святі сала науковці Полтавського інституту свинарства спростували теорію дієтологів щодо шкідливості сала через його високу насиченість жирами. За їхніми словами, сало містить арахідонову кислоту, яка належить до ненасичених жирів і є однією з незамінних для організму людини жирних кислот. "Уживання сала в розумних межах дуже корисне. Ним лікують, згідно з народною медициною, біль у суглобах, мастит, екзему, знімають сильний зубний біль", - сказав учений інституту свинарства.

Під час свята полтавчани могли придбати сало в середньому по 16 грн. за 1 кілограм.

Усі гроші, виручені на аукціоні з продажу сала, буде спрямовано на закупівлю медичного устаткування для дитячих медустанов міста.

Разом із торгівлею салом на святі проводилися численні конкурси. Так, п'ять чоловіків повинні були скуштувати горілку і закусити її справжнім українським салом. Хто зробить це швидше - той і переможе. Розважали гостей свята і численні фольклорні колективи.

Матковський вважає, що свято сала в Полтаві стане традиційним.

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Рушник Національної єдності прибуде до Канади

(Прес–служба Посольства України в Канаді)—Долучитися до вишивання "Рушника Національної єдності" зможуть ті, хто проживає на Північноамериканському континенті.

26 січня ц.р. організатори проекту Микола, Сергій та Тамара Степаненки прибудуть до Торонто, щоб в неділю, 27 січня ц.р. провести акцію в Українському культурному центрі у рамках відзначення Дня Злуки. Акція в Торонто проводитиметься за підтримки Світової Федерації українських жіночих організацій, Конгресу Українців Канади (відділ в Торонто) та Генерального консульства України в Торонто. До цього, 24 січня ц.р., акція відбудеться в Нью-Йорку.

А після Торонто "Рушник національної єдності" вирушить до Оттави, де 29 січня ц.р. акція пройде в приміщенні Посольства України. З столиці Канади організатори попрямують з Рушником до Едмонтону, де також проведуть акцію вишивання за підтримки КУК – Провінційної Ради Альберти, 31 січня в Конференційнім Центрі Готелю Шато Луї.

Метою акції є виховання у суспільстві почуття гордості за український народ та Українську державу, формування атмосфери суспільної злагоди, конструктивного діалогу всіх політичних сил держави, утвердження міжнародного авторитету нашої держави, сприяння відродженню народних традицій і ремесел.

Фото Михайла Марківа, прес-служба президента

Катерина Ющенко допомогла майстриням вишити 9-метровий рушник.

Акція Рушник національної єдності розпочалася 7 червня 2007 року на острові Хортиця та пройшла в усіх областях України, Автономній Республіці Крим, містах Київ і Севастополь. Під час проведення акції понад тисячі осіб долучилися до вишивання Рушника. Місця вишивки на час проведення акції ставали місцем проведення дискусій про шляхи відродження народного мистецтва, розвитку українського суспільства, виховання патріотизму, національної гордості, формування суспільної злагоди і загальнодержавної єдності.

А 21 січня ц.р. у Національному заповіднику "Софія Київська" участь в урочистій церемонії вишивання "Рушника національної єдності" взяла дружина Президента України Катерина Ющенко.

У зв'язку з популярністю акції організаторами було прийняте рішення про її проведення за кордоном, зокрема у країнах, де проживає велика українська діаспора. 28 жовтня 2007 року акція "Рушник національної єдності" відбулася у приміщенні Посольства України в Республіці Польща, а 30 жовтня ц.р. - пройшла у м. Перемишль.

Рушник вже став оберегом та святинею народу України. Після закінчення вишивання Рушника організатори планують передати його для зберігання в музей, щоб всі люди мали можливість його бачити та відчути ті найкращі побажання, які були зашиті руками народу.

Личаківський цвинтар – найпопулярніший музей-заповідник у Львові

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Найпопулярнішим туристичним місцем у Львові є музей-заповідник «Личаківський цвинтар». Лише торік його відвідали понад 150 тисяч гостей Львова. Переважають польські туристи. Цього року вперше проводитимуть реставрацію пам'яток на Личаківському цвинтарі.

Музеєм надмогильної скульптури та архітектури просто неба називають у Львові «Личаківський цвинтар». Найдавніша плита на гробі – датована 17-м століттям. За версією скульпторів, її перенесли з іншого міського кладовища. Адже сам цвинтар на Личакові був відкритий наприкінці 18 століття. Це найдавніший в Україні мистецький некрополь. Тут є роботи в камені таких майстрів, як Вітвер, Евтель, Філінні, Литвиненко, Дзиндра.

А спочивають на Личаківському цвинтарі чимало видатних особистостей: Іван Франко, Соломія Крушельницька, Кос-Анатольський, Станіслав Людкевич, Маркіян Шашкевич, Володимир Барвінський, Іван Крип'якевич, Григорій Тютюнник, Ірина Вільде, Марія Конопницька, композитор Володимир Івасюк і ще численні постаті мистецтва, науки, політики.

Польські туристи приїжджають на Личаків, щоб відвідати насамперед військовий цвинтар, де поховані польські вояки, котрі загинули в українсько-польській війні 1918 – 1920 років. Цей меморіальний комплекс цілком уже відновлений і вражає своєю помпезністю. Натомість місце поховання стрільців Української Галицької Армії і далі недобудоване. А тут спочивають: засновник «Пласту» Олександр Тисовський, міністр військових справ ЗУНР полковник Дмитро Вітовський, президент ЗУНР Євген Петрушевич.

Нині тривають дискусії щодо перепоховання на Личакові українських героїв Степана Бандери та Євгена Коновальця. Але думки щодо створення Алеї почесних поховань розійшлись. Одні за її побудову у Львові, а інші – у Києві.

Однак для спорудження Алеї чи завершення побудови меморіалу українським героям бракує грошей, потрібно понад 2 мільйони гривень.

Виконком Львівської міськради ухвалив концепцію благоустрою та реконструкції цвинтаря. До 2010 року мають реставрувати чимало пам'яток архітектури, відновити обгородження довкола кладовища, почистити територію для нових місць поховання і завершити меморіал героям.

Однак, говорячи про фінансові проблеми, директор музею-заповідника «Личаківський цвинтар» Ігор Гавришкевич зазначив: «До 2006 року влада не давала жодної копійки на реставраційні роботи. Ми використовували лише ті гроші, які збирали за вхід на Личаківський цвинтар. Нам просто говорили, що не існує такого положення, щоб надавати кошти для реставраційних робіт на цвинтарі».

А ще, поки що тільки у планах, для зручного пересування туристів та проведення екскурсій хочуть придбати електромобіль. Правда, такий комфорт коштував би міському бюджету близько 19 тисяч євро.

Суд Донецька ухвалив історичне рішення

(iplus)—Донецький апеляційний суд зобов'язав сплатити гроші людям, постраждалим від незаконного судового вироку.

Донецький апеляційний суд ухвалив рішення щодо суми компенсації у справі про незаконне засудження. Троє дітей та мати Світлани Зайцевої отримають компенсацію за моральну шкоду по півмільйона кожен. Світлану Зайцеву змусили зізнатись в убивстві, котрого вона не скоювала. За ґратами вона захворіла на туберкульоз. Коли справжніх убивць знайшли, Зайцеву виправдали, але хвороба взяла своє.

2006-го року жінка померла, залишивши сиротами трьох дітей і матір-інваліда.

Після скарги районний суд постановив виплатити компенсацію в розмірі двох мільйонів гривень. Управління Державного казначейства в Донецькій області подало апеляцію. І тільки після того, як справою зацікавився президент і прем'єр-міністр, у дітей та матері загиблої з'явився шанс отримати гроші.

Раніше Юлія Тимошенко дала розпорядження Мінфіну терміново відкликати апеляційну скаргу та забезпечити виконання рішення суду в повному обсязі. Сьогодні казначейство від своєї апеляції відмовилося. Залишилося головне, покарати тих, хто кинув за ґрати і змусив наговорити на себе і, зрештою, став причиною смерті Світлани Зайцевої.

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Members of SUM perform

Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex hosts Shchedryi Vechir

(UkrNews)—Edmonton's Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex hosted a "Shedryi Vechir" (Epiphany Eve) dinner for members of its constituent organizations, Jan. 18.

Guests were treated to a traditional Ukrainian "Shchedryi Vechir" dinner and performances by some of the groups housed at the complex including the Verkhovyna Choir and the members of the Ukrainian Youth Association SUM.

Verkhovyna will be hosting a dinner theatre Feb. 8 and 9 to raise funds for their 50th Anniversary Tour of Eastern Europe and will close their anniversary celebrations with an Edmonton concert in the Fall of 2009 (See also Page 16).

Edmonton Eparch Bishop David Motiuk delivered greetings to the assembled, noting that "the birth of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of our dreams and gives us faith in the goodness of mankind."

Greetings were also delivered by Associate Minister of Capital Planning Gene Zwozdesky on behalf of the provincial government, and Irka Myskiw, President of Edmonton's league of Ukrainian Women Branch.

World FM Ukrainian Program Producer Roman Brytan served as Master of Ceremonies.

U of T celebration and Festschrift honour Dr. Sysyn

By Uliana Pasicznyk

(CIUS)—Nov. 2, 75 colleagues, friends, and relatives of Dr. Frank E. Sysyn gathered at Trinity College of the University of Toronto to mark his 60th birthday, celebrate his distinguished academic career, and announce the publication of a Festschrift in his honor. Dr. Sysyn is director of the Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta, and head of the CIUS office at the U of T.

A native of Clifton, NJ, Dr. Sysyn began his scholarly career at Princeton University, where he completed a bachelor's degree at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1968. He received a master's degree in history from the University of London's School of Slavonic Studies in 1969. He then came to Harvard University, at the time that Professor Omeljan Pritsak and the Ukrainian Studies Fund were working to establish Ukrainian Studies there. Soon he became deeply involved in that effort, both as a doctoral student in the Department of History and as an activist and fund-raiser for the project to establish three professorships — in history, language, and literature — as well as a research institute for Ukrainian Studies at Harvard University. In the decade that followed, he held a number of research fellowships abroad, in the UK, Poland, and the U.S.S.R., and completed his Harvard Ph.D. with a dissertation on the prominent 17th-century political figure Adam Kysil. Over the following years, he taught as an assistant professor and then associate professor of history at Harvard, administered the Ukrainian program of the Harvard Summer School, became associate editor of the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, continued his research projects in the U.S. and abroad, wrote numerous scholarly works, and served as associate director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

In 1989, Dr. Sysyn came to Canada to join the CIUS at the U of A as director of the new Peter Jacyk Centre for Ukrainian Historical Research. At that post he founded and continues to administer a number of research and publications programs. He serves as editor-in-chief of the Centre's major undertaking, the Hrushevsky Translation Project, which is producing a complete English version of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's multivolume *History of Ukraine-Rus'*. Dr. Sysyn also heads the CIUS office at the U of T. He has continued his own scholarly work in Ukrainian Studies, particularly in the fields of early modern Cossack, political, and religious history, and has an extensive bibliography of publications. He has also found time to conduct courses in history at Stanford University and also Columbia University, where he will be teaching this coming spring.

The celebratory evening's program opened with greetings by Dr. Zenon E. Kohut, director of CIUS, who spoke warmly of his long personal and professional friendship with the honoree and highlighted some of his most notable achievements. Prof. Olga Andriewsky of Trent University spoke of Dr. Sysyn as her teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend, noting in particular his profound influence on her intellectual development as a scholar and historian. Uliana Pasicznyk, managing editor of the Harvard Translation Project, shared some experiences and perceptions in working with Dr. Sysyn on editorial projects over many years first at Harvard and then at the U of T. Nadia Jacyk, head of the Jacyk Educational Foundation and daughter of philanthropist Peter Jacyk, spoke of the esteem in which her late father held Dr. Sysyn and her appreciation of his accomplishments as director of the scholarly centre Jacyk founded. Prof. Serhii Plokhy, newly appointed Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard, and previously associate director of the Jacyk Centre at the U of A, spoke of meeting Dr. Sysyn at Harvard in the 1980s and his role in bringing him to Edmonton as a visiting scholar in 1991, expressing gratitude and great regard for Dr. Sysyn as a scholar and friend. Professor Plokhy went on to acknowledge and read greetings and congratulations sent to Dr. Sysyn from colleagues and scholarly organizations across North America, as well as from Ukraine, Poland, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia. Professor Andriewsky read a letter by John Sysyn sharing warm personal and family recollections about his older brother. Dr. Sysyn's aunt, Olga Zidowsky, greeted the gathering on behalf of members of the Sysyn family and spoke of her nephew's devotion and importance to them; she also shared recollection of the family's painful loss of Frank Sysyn, Sr. in the past year.

Professors Andriewsky and Plokhy then presented Dr. Sysyn with a manuscript of the Festschrift to be published in his honor. The project follows the European scholarly tradition of marking a sixtieth or other important birthday of an eminent scholar by producing a new work of scholarship in his honor and including it in a special collection, traditionally given a Latin title. Dr. Sysyn's Festschrift, titled *Tentorium Honorum* after a panegyric addressed to Adam Kysil, contains 33 articles of historical scholarship written by his colleagues and students on a broad range of topics; the studies deal with Ukraine and other Eastern and Central European countries and encompass early history to modern times. Editors of the collection are professors Andriewsky, Plokhy, and Larry Wolff of New York University, another former student of Dr. Sysyn's.

Dr. Frank E. Sysyn

The evening continued with two more presentations by the honoree's CIUS colleagues. Dr. Marko R. Stech, managing director of CIUS Press, expressed appreciation of Dr. Sysyn's ethical standards and personal qualities and presented him with the institute's gift of a painting symbolizing Ukrainian Christianity throughout history, by the eminent Ukrainian artist Feodosii Humeniuk. On a light-hearted note, Andrij Makuch, editor and Ukrainian Canadian specialist, bestowed an ornamental yet weighty *bulava* (Cossack hetman's mace) on the honoree, in recognition of his special expertise in Ukrainian Cossack history and commanding leadership in the field of Ukrainian Studies.

Dr. Sysyn himself concluded the program. He thanked those present for gathering in his honor, and expressed particular gratitude to the program's organizers and speakers. He shared how childhood experiences, especially the influence of his paternal grandparents, sparked his interest in Ukraine and its history, and how that interest developed during his student years. He spoke of the scholars who were his mentors, particularly Professors Pritsak and Ihor _ev_enko of Harvard, and his good fortune in having challenging students and talented and dedicated colleagues. He voiced his belief in the future of Ukrainian studies and the need for scholarship in the field to continue to develop both in Ukraine and beyond its borders. He expressed gratitude for the love and support of his family and thanked his aunt and his mother, Hattie Sysyn, for coming to Toronto to be present. He noted the important career advice once given him by his father and expressed sadness at his absence from this special occasion.

Throughout the evening the gathering was entertained by a slide show of photos depicting events in Dr. Sysyn's life, created by Marta Baziuk and Professor Taras Koznarsky of the U of T. A special guest was Dr. Sysyn's godson, first-grader Tymish Koznarsky.

Dr. Sysyn's Festschrift will appear as a special issue of the *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* published by CIUS Press. Anyone wishing to join in congratulating the honoree may make a contribution toward publishing costs and add their names to the "Tabula Gratulatoria" that will appear in the publication. Donations should be sent to Roman Senkus, Director of the CIUS Publications Program, University of Toronto, 256 McCaul Street, Room 308, Toronto M5T 1W5 Canada.

NTC Newman Theological College

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КІУС CIUS
50 РОКІВ ДОСКОНАЛОСТІ 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що дня 12-го січня 2008 р., в Монтреалі, Канада, відійшов у вічність

о. мітрат Іван ГАВРИЛЮК.

Народився 1.VII.1912 у Зарваниці, де його батько був священиком. Закінчивши Богословську Академію у Львові, був рукоположений у стан священства Митрополитом Андреєм Шептицьким 3.IV.1938 р. Працював душпастирем в Україні, Словаччині, Австрії, Франції та Канаді.

Священичі похоронні відправи відбулися в церкві Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці в Монтреалі в днях 15-16 січня. Похований на українській секції цвинтаря Нотр Дам, біля покійної своєї дружини Дарії з Когутяків, з якою прожив 50 років.

В жалобі:
дочка Богданна з чоловіком Мироном Мончаком
син Мирон Гаврилюк
синова Лідія Гаврилюк
внуки Андрій і Юра Мончаки та Павло, Наталка і Мирон Гаврилюки з родинами
брат Петро Гаврилюк з дружиною Богданною та родиною
сваха Галина Мандрик

Вічная пам'ять!

Виставка "Іскри" присвячена пам'яті жертв Голодомору

Як осінь-літо є багатими на врожаї, так багатими є і на мистецькі виставки.

В цьому році минає 75 річниця Голодомору 1932-1933 років. Однією з головних тем мистецьких виставок картин п. Орисі Сінітович-Ґорської—вшанувати, віддати данину пам'яті нещасним жертвам голодомору в Україні.

15-16 вересня цього року в місті Саскатуні в Українському Музеї Союзу Українок Канади відбулася одна з таких виставок. Сумно і урочисто горіли свічки, а на одній з представлених картин—зображена виснажена голодом дитина.

Серед голого каміння бачимо стовбур дерева без єдиного живого листочка, на який безсило похилилася виснажена голодом постать. В очах мольба про спасіння.

Фантазія мисткині представила нам розсипане зерно пшениці, яка могла би врятувати від смерті цю дитину, але якої насправді не було, бо тодішній злочинний уряд наказав все збіжжя відібрати від українського народу.

Тільки на одній Луганщині налічується шістнадцять тисяч жертв Голодомору 1932-1933 років. А скільки таких Луганщин тоді було?...

Гострі емоції хвилювання викликає інша картина: жіночі постаті, мати з дітьми. Орися Сінітович-Ґорська показує нам зображену нею межу між світлом і темрявою. Темряви багато, а світло тільки в думках та в мріях цих нещасних,—мріях про порятунок, про їжу.

На виставці були також картини на тему Чорнобильської трагедії в Україні 1986 року "Загублена ікона Чорнобиля", "Діти Чорнобиля", на тему відродження демократії в Україні, демонстрації на вулицях столиці "Вставай, Україно". Є ціла низка картин портретів гуцулів в національному одязі. Серед прекрасного краєвиду Карпатських полонин пасуться вівці, тиша і спокій, і разом з тим наголошена тема сільськогосподарської праці — як от, "Жнива", косять пшеницю, йде селянка, зігнувшись під тягарем снопа пшениці, окремо — маки, колосся пшениці, соняшники.

Виставка пройшла успішно.

Картина Орисі Сінітович-Ґорської із виставки "Іскри".

Відкривав виставку Ярослав Лозовчук, двоюрідний брат мисткині. А представила Орисю Сінітович-Ґорську професор Манітобського університету д-р Александра Павловська.

Наступна виставка відбулася 30 листопада-1 жовтня в місті Едмонтоні.

Засвітили свічки в пам'ять загиблих від голодомору і жертв Чорнобильської трагедії д-р Радомир Білаш із сестрою Любою. Серед 26 картин, кожна з яких була цікава ідеєю, тематикою, стилем, кольоритом, — нам, українцям гріло душу своє близьке, як от наші церкви: Всеканадська Митрополича Катедра Пресвятої Тройці у Вінніпезі, церква Св. Євхаристії у Гаффорді, Кобзарі, портрет відомого скульптора Лео Мола, Петриківський орнамент, писанки.

Орися Сінітович-Ґорська походить із Гаффорду, Саскачеван і є третьою ґенерацією канадських українців. Із теплотою і вдячністю згадує про своїх батьків. Мистецький талант унаслідувала від батька Григорія, нащадка гуцульського роду Сінітовичів. Він був її першим вчителем з дитинства, а потім Тарас Король та Никола Біласич.

Немало із своєї творчості мисткиня присвятила пам'яті батька.

В серпні (з 12 серпня по 19) у Вінніпезі у Павільйоні Київ також була виставка картин пані Орисі, і було багато відвідувачів, українців і не українців, тому що нашу Фольклораму багато хто любить, і звичайно, мисткиня наслухалася гарних слів захоплення її творчістю.

19 жовтня ц. р. під час XXII Конґресу Українців Канади (Fairmont Hotel, Winnipeg) Орися Сінітович порадувала присутніх своєю виставкою картин. А в червні місяці (21-24 червня ц. р.) в Нью-Йорку на XXXII науковій конференції Асоціації Українських медиків Північної Америки (UMANA) також була виставка її картин. Серед них, картина "Два доктори", картини на політичну тематику. Одну із своїх картин мисткиня назвала "Демократія?" і поставила знак питання. Це було в 2003 році, ще до Помаранчевої революції.

Чи це вже демократія, чи лише її початки, коливання, перемоги і поразки? Тому мисткиня поставила цей знак запитання. Професор з Вашінґтонського університету заручився згодою п. Орисі використати картину «Democracy?" для обкладинки своєї книги про демократію.

Багато гостей, делегатів з'їзду і конференції, рідних, друзів, шанувальників оглянули картини мисткині.

—Л.Г.П.

30 років тому Олекса Гірник вчинив акт самоспалення

Віталій Пономарьов, *Радіо Свобода*

21 січня, 30 років тому на Чернечій горі біля Канева на знак протесту проти колоніального статусу України вчинив самоспалення Олекса Гірник з Калуша. Свій вчинок він приурочив до 60-ї річниці проголошення Центральною Радою незалежності Української Народної Республіки. А 10 років до цього в Києві таким саме чином протестували Василь Макух із Дніпропетровська та Микола Бериславський з Бердянська.

Олекса Гірник народився 27 березня 1912 року у містечку Богородчанах на Прикарпатті. Він навчався у польській школі та українській гімназії, працював у молодіжній організації «Сокіл», служив у польському війську. 1937 року рядовий Гірник заявив, що мріє змінити конфедератку на мазепинку, за це був заарештований і засуджений трибуналом до 5 років ув'язнення.

Під час розподілу Польщі між Німеччиною та Радянським Союзом Олекса Гірник утік із в'язниці і повернувся на Львівщину. У Стрию він був заарештований удруге, тепер уже НКВД, вивезений до Житомирської області і за звинуваченням у зраді Батьківщини засуджений до 8 років ув'язнення. Відбував покарання у концтаборах на Уралі.

Після звільнення мешкав у Калуші неподалік від рідних Богородчан. У січні 1978 року 65-річний Олекса Гірник вирішив вчинити самоспалення на знак протесту проти русифікації України.

«Мій протест – то сама правда, а не московська брехня від початку до кінця. Мій протест – то пережиття, тортури української нації. Мій протест – то прометеїзм, то бунт проти насилля і поневолення. Мій протест – то слова Шевченка, а я його тільки учень і виконавець».

19 січня Олекса Гірник виїхав до Києва, відвідав Софійський собор та Києво-Печерську лавру. Ввечері 20 січня він приїхав до Канева, піднявся на Чернечу гору, тричі обійшов навколо могили Тараса Шевченка і на північному схилі гори розкидав майже тисячу саморобних листівок з протестом проти русифікації. Близько третьої години ночі Олекса Гірник облив себе бензином і підпалив. Вранці його тіло знайшли співробітники міліції, і від них про вчинок Олекси Гірника стало відомо у Каневі та Калуші, а згодом у Польщі та у країнах Західної Європи.

From Ukraine with love

Berdyansk-born model to become next leading Bond girl

Khaleej Times Online, *Jan. 14, 2008*

She being billed as the toughest and most glamorous Bond girl to date. But Olga Kurylenko's route to stardom has been anything but easy. Behind the wide brown eyes in these pictures from her childhood is a tale of hard times.

Growing up in the poverty of the Soviet Union, she suffered a broken home and had to wear patched-up clothes. But all that changed with a chance encounter on Moscow's underground metro system.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian was unveiled last week as the actress who will play Camille in the as yet unnamed 22nd Bond film. But it was in Russia that her star potential was first noticed.

Aged just 13, she was on holiday in Moscow with her mother Marina Alyabusheva when she was spotted by a model scout getting off a metro train.

Alyabusheva, 50, said: 'I was very surprised and kept asking this woman whether she had some hidden agenda.

'I was amazed a complete stranger could scout for models like this. She told us that Olga was too young but she would contact us again in a year or so.'

Olga later returned to Moscow for training but by the age of 17 she was ready to leave for Paris to start her career. Now her name will sit alongside some of 007's most famous conquests, including Ursula Andress, Halle Berry and Britt Ekland.

Olga is as glamorous as any of her predecessors and has not been afraid to show off her body in magazines and the movies she has already made. Yet she has revealed little of the anguish she suffered as a child.

She was born and grew up in a cramped Soviet 'communal flat', in the Ukrainian seaside town of Berdyansk, with four small rooms shared by six adults from her extended family and several children.

Berdyansk is a resort on the Azov Sea famed for its mineral water springs and mud baths. But when Olga was growing up it was rundown with Soviet-era plants closing due to bankruptcy.

Her family struggled. While Marina went out to try to earn money, her mother Raisa helped to bring up Olga.

'I divorced her father Konstanin soon after her birth. I didn't think he was the right man to be a good father and husband,' said Marina, a teacher turned professor of art.

'And after the divorce, he forgot about her. He didn't see her from the age of two until she was 13. But maybe I was wrong to divorce him because Olga told me much later how much she had so missed him.'

As the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, salaries were hit by rampant inflation and times were hard. 'Olga hated wearing old clothes and begged me for new sweaters, but we couldn't afford it. We had to darn the holes. It was tough.'

Olga Kurylenko

Clothes have played a significant part in Olga's career ever since.

After flying off to Paris, she learned French in just six months. She was soon on the cover of magazines such as Elle and Vogue, and became the face of Lejaby lingerie.

At 20, she married French photographer Cedric van Mol, who was nine years older.

'They had been friends before but it was a marriage without love,' said her mother.

They were divorced after two years, but Olga qualified for a French passport, allowing her to travel freely in the West without visas. Then her acting career began to take off.

Her cinematic roles have been notably steamy. In her latest film, The Serpent, she takes part in a drug-fuelled bondage scene.

But Marina says she is not embarrassed by her daughter's nude work. 'I always appreciate the beauty of the human body.'

Olga has married again, to a mobile phone accessory entrepreneur Damian Gabrielle. Now her mother believes her role as Camille could make her a major star.

'I talk to her every day and she is very excited,' she said. 'I hope this is just a start.'

Mahlay to step down as Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus conductor

(UBC)—After almost 12 years at its artistic helm, Oleh Mahlay will be stepping down as Artistic Director and Conductor of the internationally renowned Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC) at the end of the 2007-2008 concert season. Mahlay has been directing the UBC since 1996, and his tenure is highlighted by a Western European concert tour, a historic series of concerts and events in Ukraine during the 10 Year Ukrainian Independence Anniversary Celebration, a commitment to youth and educational programs of the UBC, as well as the recent concert tour which commemorated the work of Hryhory Kytasty. Prior to being selected as the artistic director, Mahlay was the Chorus' assistant conductor and concertmaster, and an active member of the concert ensemble since 1987. Mahlay has been credited for revitalizing the membership of the UBC with talented bandura players and vocalists from all over North America.

Mahlay plans to take some time off to spend with family and possibly explore other musical ventures. Mahlay states, "It was not an easy decision to close this chapter in my artistic life and leave a group of devoted and charismatic individuals. Most people do not appreciate the caliber of individuals who make up the Chorus; individuals who deeply care about the kobzar tradition, understand the importance of the Chorus' work throughout the world, and are open to exploring new musical concepts." He continues, "After almost 20 years of intense commitment to this legendary group, it is time to step away in order to re-energize, focus on my family, and pass the torch to my successor. As I told the membership, at the end of my current tenure I will become the Kapelia's number one fan!"

During his time as Conductor, Mahlay has worked with the President of the UBC, Anatoli Murha, for over eight years. Working together, they released five diverse recordings, organized tours, concerts and special events throughout North America, Europe and Ukraine. Mahlay said, "Having strong administrative leadership has been one the keys to the success of the UBC. It is rare to find such a good working relationship between art and commerce. Working together, Anatoli and I have been able to create a wonderful team consisting of the entire membership, which has led to a growth in our audience and an ability to spread the word about the bandura to Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike. I have no doubt that the Chorus will continue to blossom as it approaches its 100 year anniversary in 2018."

UBC President Murha stated, "It should be noted that Maestro Mahlay looks forward to returning to the UBC one day and that his stepping down is a personal decision, not organizational." A search committee has been formed. Murha continues, "It is our intent to have a new conductor in place and working with the membership on or before Sept. 1, 2008. The search committee will identify candidates, interview them and make recommendations to the membership of the UBC for final decision." According to the by-laws of the UBC, the active membership must vote for the conductor. Murha states, "The year 2008 is very important to the Ukrainian community as it begins to commemorate the Holodomor. We have been invited to join the commemoration in addition to other projects slated for 2008 and 2009. Finding a new conductor is priority number one so that we can continue our ambassadorial mission."

Yushchenko presses for Bush visit

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine has been working to ensure that US President George Bush visits the country in April, President Viktor Yushchenko said Jan. 15 at a meeting with US Senator Richard Lugar.

Bush is expected to visit the region in April to attend a NATO summit in Bucharest, the Romanian capital.

"President Yushchenko expressed expectations of the Ukrainian party that the visit by US President George Bush will take place in April," the presidential press service reported.

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Shevchenko says he will not be forced out by Anelka

Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko has said he will not be forced out of Chelsea's attacking line-up by the arrival of Frenchman Nicolas Anelka, reports Reuters.

Anelka, who joined from Bolton Wanderers in a 15 million pounds deal, is looking forward to forging a partnership with Ivorian Didier Drogba at the Premier League club.

However, the Jan. 19 Daily Express newspaper quoted Shevchenko, who is currently sidelined by an ankle injury, as saying he would fight to keep his place.

"I am not worried about other players coming to the club," said the 2004 European player of the year, who joined Chelsea from AC Milan for 30 million pounds in 2006.

"I believe in my ability. I know that if I'm in good form I can be as good as any of the players here. I believe I can keep a place in this team.

"Before this injury I was feeling good," the 31-year-old added. "I was in good form and I was scoring goals. I want to carry on that form when I come back.

"New players only make the squad here stronger and that is good for the club... a club like Chelsea is always going to bring good players in. That is what you expect. It means everybody has to fight that bit harder to get into the team. I am the same."

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Mykhailychenko named national coach

Olexiy Mykhailychenko, recently head of Ukraine's youth team, was named to head the country's national football team on Jan. 11. One of the Soviet Union's leading midfielders during the 1980s, Mykhailychenko replaced Oleg Blokhin, who had been national team coach for four years, reports DPA.

Blokhin resigned in December after Ukraine crashed out of the Euro 2008 competition.

Mykhailychenko, 44, is best known in Ukraine for steering the country's Under-21 team to a world silver medal in 2006, and for his player days as one of the country's top attacking midfielders.

His club experience for two years at Dynamo Kyiv was less impressive, ending in a sacking after the team failed to perform in Champions' League competition.

Mykhailychenko's impending appointment to head the national side was sparking objections in Ukrainian sports media a good 24 hours before he actually took over the job.

Ukraine's Under-21 team under Mykhailychenko's stewardship last year failed to qualify for the 2008 European Championship — hardly a recommendation for his qualifications as a national team coach, the authoritative Kommanda sports newspaper editorialised.

Hryhory Surkis, head of the Federation of Football of Ukraine, cited Mykhailychenko's long experience

Sports

with top Ukrainian youth players, now coming of age to play for the national side, as a key ground for his appointment.

Mykhailychenko was a critical creative force in powerful Dynamo Kyiv sides of the 1980s, and on the Soviet national team winning an Olympic gold in 1988. He went on to play at UC Sampodoria and Rangers FC in the first half of the 1990s.

Legendary Valery Lobanovsky, the Soviet Union's most successful coach, in an autobiography called Mykhailychenko one of the most technically-gifted players he had ever seen.

Mykhailychenko became Lobanovsky's assistant in 1997, and took over Dynamo Kyiv after Lobanovsky's death in 2002.

Groomed as Lobanovsky's disciple and coaching heir apparent, Mykhailychenko failed to deliver, according to many Ukrainian football specialists, for his refusal to innovate upon Lobanovsky's Soviet-style tactics, while reducing emphasis on intense fitness training.

Ukraine face Croatia, England, Belarus, Andorra and Kazakhstan in qualifying Group 6 for the 2010 World Cup, to be held in South Africa.

Yushchenko says gov't must solve Euro stadium row

President Viktor Yushchenko on Jan. 21 demanded a quick solution from the government to halt construction of a shopping centre next to Kyiv's main stadium which threatens to derail plans to host the Euro 2012 final, reported Reuters.

European soccer's governing body UEFA says the half-built complex blocks exits from the stadium and that unless the issue is solved, Kyiv will not be able to hold the final. Ukraine last year won a bid with Poland to host the championship.

Yushchenko had already issued a decree ordering a halt to the project and the prosecutor's office said on Jan. 21 a court had barred further construction.

"The president instructed (the government) to conduct final consultations on compensating investors tomorrow," said Yuri Bohutsky, deputy presidential chief of staff, after Yushchenko discussed the 2012 championship with government officials.

Bohutsky said that whatever decisions were taken, "the structure must be taken down".

The company building the complex has offered to provide extra passageways to allow for proper crowd control. Police have allowed only half the stadium's 84,000 seats to be sold at major matches since UEFA issued its warnings.

The championship will be the largest sporting event ever staged by ex-communist Poland and Ukraine. Both countries face huge tasks in building or modernising stadiums, hotels, and transport networks.

Bohutsky said the finance ministry estimated at 126 billion hryvnias ($25 billion) the investment required for the event. The government would stump up about one-fifth of the total.

Plans this year called for expenditure of the equivalent of $800 million and Bohutsky said the government had to simplify legislation to attract foreign investors.

Polish-Ukrainian declaration on Euro security

(The News.pl)—Interior Ministers of Poland and Ukraine have signed a declaration concerning co-operation in improving security during the finals of the EURO 2012 Football Championships.

Polish Interior Minister Grzegorz Schetyna stressed that the agreement is only a prelude to further concrete actions, which will take place in March after accepting a list of stadiums on which the matches will be played.

Schetyna said that the talks on transferring thousands of football fans has just started.

"This is a huge event and a huge challenge," the Minister said.

Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko said that the talks concerned forming a Polish-Ukrainian EURO 2012 committee. The committee is to comprise of representatives of Poland's and Ukraine's Interior Ministries, UEFA representatives and those of other organisations dealing with EURO 2012 preparations.

Ukraine counts on joint actions towards improving the situation of the people living near the Polish-Ukrainian border after Poland's entering the Schengen zone.

Ukraine celebrates another year of top performances

(European Athletics)—Jan. 18 the great and the good of Ukrainian Athletics were gathered in Kyiv to celebrate the AFINA Awards, the top level awards ceremony for Ukrainian athletes.

The invited guests included Ukrainian Minister for Youth and Sports, Yuriy Pavlenko, President of the National Olympic committee and Senior Vice-President of IAAF Sergey Bubka and the adviser to the IAAF President, Sandro Jovanelli.

There were awards for both of Ukraine's World Championship medallist; 1,500m bronze winner, Iryna Lishchynska, and Heptathlete silver medallist, Lyudmyla Blonska. Blonska took the title of Best Female Athlete, while her coach and husband, Sergey, won Coach of the Year.

Seven-time European Cross Champion and European Athlete of the month for December, Sergey Lebid caused a bit of a stir in the ceremony, showing up only ten minutes before he was due to claim his well-deserved title of Best Male Athlete, as both he and his wife had been involved in a minor car accident on their way to the Awards. Lebid was a little shaken but unhurt and managed to collect his award to the rapturous applause of the assembled guests.

In addition to the standard awards, every year Ukrainian Athletics selects the most beautiful athlete of the year, a title that was bestowed on European Indoor 800m silver medallist, Tetyana Petlyuk.

There was also recognition for 40-year-old, two-time World Hammer silver medallist Andriy Skvaruk, who announced his official retirement as an athlete at the ceremony, but confirmed his future role as a coach for the Estonian record-holder in Hammer throwing, Maris Rongelep.

US to join Ukraine energy summit in May

Business

Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko meets with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

(Ukrainian Journal)—The United States on Jan. 23 agreed to join an energy summit in Kyiv later this year, a move that supports Ukraine's attempts to arrange alternative to Russia's supplies of oil and natural gas.

Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, assured President Viktor Yushchenko in Davos the US will participate in the summit in May, according to report by Yushchenko's press service. Rice also backed Ukraine on its way towards the accession to NATO, the press service said.

"C. Rice has expressed support for Ukraine's course towards the integration into Euro-Atlantic structures," the report said. "The Secretary of State also confirmed the US's participation at a high level at the Energy summit."

Sending a top US government official to the summit significantly increases profile the summit, which includes countries, such as Azerbaijan, Georgia and Poland, located between the Caspian Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The summit is aimed at drumming up political and business support for the project of moving oil extracted from the Caspian Sea to markets in Ukraine and the European Union, bypassing Russia.

Two US oil majors, ExxonMobile and ChevronTexaco, are some of the biggest producers of Caspian Sea oil that is being extracted in Kazakhstan.

Ukraine seeks to arrange alternative route for oil and gas supplies to reduce near monopoly dependence on Russia, its primary source of energy.

The heavy reliance on Russian energy makes the Ukrainian economy a hostage to its increasingly pro-Western foreign policy course, including its drive to join NATO and to boost cooperation with the European Union.

Days ago Ukraine has officially asked NATO for a permission to join the Membership Action Plan, the last program preceding the accession to the alliance, seriously angering Russia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Jan. 22 that Moscow will respond with unspecified sanctions against Kyiv in the event that Ukraine joins NATO. The sanctions, analysts said, will most likely include a dramatic hike in energy prices and possibly even restrictions on energy supplies.

But Russia's response may actually go far beyond the energy and economic sanction, and may perhaps include some military response, according to senior Russian lawmaker.

These measures may not have only economic, political or diplomatic nature," Viktor Ozerov, the chairman of the defense and security committee in the upper house of Russian Parliament, the Council of Federation, said, Interfax reported.

"Russia has a wide range of tools in order to give Ukraine, in the event of its NATO accession, an adequate response," Ozerov said. "Kyiv wants to join the organization that is viewed in Russia as not only political bloc, but also as a military bloc with all the consequences."

Ukraine may join WTO next month

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's economic growth will accelerate through an expected increase in exports and investment after the country joins the World Trade Organization next month, President Viktor Yushchenko said Jan. 20.

Analysts expected Ukraine's growth to slow down to 6.8% in 2008, down from 7.3% in 2007, but the joining of the WTO may help to accelerate the expansion, Yushchenko said.

"Joining the same legal field with other businesses on all continents gives an advantage of 1.5 to 1.8 percentage points in extra GDP growth," Yushchenko said in an interview with Inter television Jan. 20. "We're talking about billions of dollars in benefits for the Ukrainian economy in different sectors."

Ukraine's economy is estimated at more than $176 billion in 2008, and an extra growth of 1.8% may be an equivalent of $3.2 billion in additional economic growth.

Joining the WTO is Yushchenko's key economic policy and trade initiative, and is expected to boost Ukraine's exports to the rest of the world.

The accession would also help Ukraine to start negotiations with the European Union over creating a free trade zone, a move that is expected to increase mutual trade between the two.

"The most important is that we are to begin talks with the EU over creating the free trade zone," Yushchenko said at a security meeting on Jan. 18. "This is a major work that Ukraine must do in the context of European integration."

Ukraine, which was in talks over the accession for more than a decade, is now expected to join the WTO in early February, perhaps on Feb. 5, according to Hryhoriy Nemyria, the deputy prime minister for European integration.

The accession has become possible following a compromise reached on Jan. 16 between Ukraine and the EU over a sensitive issue of easing duties the country slaps on some of its exports, such as scrap ferrous metal and sunflower seeds.

This follows a major progress that Ukraine has made in November 2007 by approving regulatory issues and settling a 15-year old debt conflict with Kyrgyzstan.

Ukraine was deadlocked for years in talks with Kyrgyzstan over a disputed $27.3 million debt that Bishkek claims has been owned by Ukraine since the break up of the former Soviet Union.

Ukraine has been refusing to accept it as the state debt amid fears this would trigger an avalanche of similar claims by other countries, such as Belarus and Russia.

But the breakthrough in the talks with Bishkek came after Ukraine suggested sending $27.3 million 'humanitarian aid' to Kyrgyzstan.

Hayduk tapped as industry and energy DPM

(Ukrainian Journal)—Vitaliy Hayduk, the billionaire owner of a steel empire, has been nominated by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as Ukraine's deputy prime minister for industry and energy, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov said Jan. 14.

Other nominations include Andriy Portnov, Tymoshenko's lawyer, as the head of the State Property Fund, and David Zhvania, a financial sponsor of Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense party, as the head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee.

These nominations, which must be approved by Parliament, complete the appointments of positions within the executive branch of power following the change of the government last month.

"I am convinced the democratic coalition will approve these nominations," Tymoshenko said on Jan. 14 while traveling to Dnipropetrovsk. "This will complete the appointments [of the new government] by Parliament."

Hayduk, a former top security advisor to President Viktor Yushchenko, is thought to own 50% of the Industrial Union of Donbas, a diversified conglomerate that includes major steel assets.

Hayduk, a pro-Western figure, has been advocating for a tougher response from Ukraine during a natural gas price dispute with Russia in early 2006. The dispute led to brief disruptions of gas supply from Russia to the European Union.

Hayduk is also known as an advocate of building an alternative route of oil and gas supplies to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas imports. The appointment of Hayduk to the post would signal that Ukraine might be moving faster in that direction, analysts said.

Portnov, who is supposed to replace Valentyna Semeniuk as the head of the state property fund, Ukraine's privatization agency, is expected to spearhead Tymoshenko's controversial plans for privatization policy.

Tymoshenko sparked controversy in early 2005, during her first time as the prime minister, by pledging to re-privatize 3,000 of companies sold in Ukraine since early 1990s.

The plan, which she claimed was to punish corruption and illegal privatizations, scared investors and led to capital flight from Ukraine, contributing to a major economic slowdown by the middle of 2005.

This time around, Tymoshenko pledged taking no sweeping action against thousands of assets. But she still indicated some of the assets, such as Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant, one of the world's biggest producers of ferroalloys that is owned by Viktor Pinchuk, a billionaire and Tymoshenko's long time foe, must be taken back to state ownership.

Portnov, thought to be one of Ukraine's best lawyers that focus on privatization deals, is likely to become Tymoshenko's tool for the re-privatization, analysts said.

Zhvania is expected to replace Oleksiy Kostusev, a member of opposition Regions Party, as the head of Ukraine's anti-cartel agency.

Commission to check gas company operations

(RFE/RL)—Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Prodan announced on Jan. 9 that the government has created a commission to oversee the operations of Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Ukraine's largest gas production and storage company, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on Jan. 8 issued a decree instructing the government "to prevent or neutralize the threat to national security" posed by instability in the energy sector.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Tymoshenko said that Naftohaz Ukrayiny was on the brink of bankruptcy.

Naftohaz Ukrayiny conducts 97 percent of gas and oil extraction operations in Ukraine and has a monopoly on gas transit and storage.

Hayduk to sell steel empire stake

(Ukrainian Journal)—Vitaliy Hayduk, the billionaire who was recently nominated for the post of deputy prime minister for energy and industry, plans to sell his stake in a steel empire, his partner said Jan. 17. Serhiy Taruta, who jointly with Hayduk co-owns the Industrial Union of Donbas, the steel and chemical holding, said talks had been underway to buy out his partner's assets.

Tymoshenko says Naftohaz on verge of bankruptcy

(RFE/RL)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on Jan. 2 that Ukraine's gas-storage facilities are almost empty and the Ukrainian state oil and gas company, Naftohaz, is on the brink of bankruptcy, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Tymoshenko rejected claims that Naftohaz owns some 30 billion cubic meters of natural gas in its storage facilities.

"What has been pumped there belongs to doubtful commercial structures," she said.

Tymoshenko also said that a special investigative commission should be created to examine the financial standing of Naftohaz.

Oleksiy Ivchenko, who headed Naftohaz in 2005-06, accused the former government of forcing Naftohaz to incur huge debts to Gazprom so that it would have to cede Ukraine's gas-transport system to the Russian monopoly.

Mykhaylo Chechetov of the Party of Regions described such accusations as "an attempt to gain cheap political dividends at the beginning of the year."

Tymoshenko pledges to keep privatization transparent

(RFE/RL)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on Jan. 16 that "there will be no more half-shady or shady privatizations in Ukraine," RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

"All objects will be privatized in a completely transparent way, in open auctions," she said.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov announced that the government has approved a list of 28 Ukrainian enterprises that should be privatized in the first instance.

The Odesa Portside Plant, the country's second-largest chemical plant, and Ukrtelekom are on the list, which Turchynov said is incomplete.

The government assumed revenues of 8.5 billion hryvnias ($1.6 billion) from the privatizations in its 2008 budget.

Ukraine, EU to upgrade pipelines

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine, jointly with the European Union, plans to raise 2.5 billion euros over the next five years to upgrade its oil and natural gas pipelines moving energy resources from Russia to Europe.

The plan, disclosed by the Ukrainian energy and fuel ministry Jan. 18, calls for a special donor conference, perhaps between July and September, which would help to raise the cash.

SUSK to hold 50th National Congress in Montreal

(SUSK)—The Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union (SUSK) was revived at the XXII National Ukrainian Canadian Congress held in Winnipeg this past October. Elected as National SUSK president was Artem Luhovy, president of the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association in Montreal. Close to 50 youth delegates from various youth organizations attended, many of whom are members of university clubs across Canada. Also present was architect Victor Deneka, one of the first organizers of SUSK in 1953.

In November, SUSK National organized a mock hunger strike at various universities across Canada marking the 75th anniversary of the famine-genocide in Soviet Ukraine. SUSK National also has revived "Student", its national tri-lingual publication, a forum reflecting the broad interests of Ukrainian-Canadian students. This year it will be marking its 40th anniversary, having first been published in Montreal in 1968.

Membership in SUSK consists of Ukrainian clubs, associations, federations whose members are students of a Canadian university or other post-secondary institutions. SUSK National has an official representative, President Luhovy, on the Board of Directors of the National UCC. It is also a member of the World Congress of Ukrainians (CKY).

SUSK is presently organizing its 50th National SUSK Congress to be held from Feb. 22 to Feb. 24 at McGill University in Montreal. The conference program will be put on the SUSK website (www.susk.ca) and on Youtube. Students from across Canada will be attending, as well as, American university students who are members of SUSTA.

SUSK has a long tradition dating from its founding in Winnipeg in December 1953, with student activity dating back further to 1927 in Canada. Among SUSK's aims has been to unite and co-ordinate Ukrainian student clubs at all Canadian universities, including CEGEP in Quebec, and to promote co-operation and programs among them.

SUSK national executive for 2007-2008 is: president, Artem Luhovy, McGill University; Executive Vice President Internal, Marco Jacuta, University of Alberta; Director of Publications "Student" and Communications, Adriana Luhovy, Concordia University; VP Regional West, Roman Soltykevych, U of A; VP Regional East, Olyana Grod, York University; Projects Director, Tamara Mischena, University of Guelph; Director of External Relations, Oksana Hrycyna, York University; Secretary, Olesia Markevych, U of A; treasurer, Andrij Popiel, University of Manitoba; and Alumni Director and Past President, Paul Horbal, University of Toronto.

SUSK National Executive members with SUSK president Artem Luhovy (front right) and architect Victor Deneka (front right), one of the original SUSK founders.

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